

Non-unionists to pay organization tax

EVELYN GORDON

MANY people unaffiliated with any union will once again have to pay the organization tax, after Histadrut Ha'oydim Ha'leumi yesterday withdrew its petition to the High Court of Justice against the tax.

With the withdrawal, the interim injunction issued by the court against collecting the tax from non-union workers automatically lapses.

Leumi withdrew its petition after signing an agreement with the state whereby the state will deduct the organization tax from Leumi's members and transfer

the money to the union, just as it does for the Histadrut. Leumi's main objection had been that the state was performing this service for the Histadrut, and not for it.

The agreement also states that Leumi's membership list as of the end of 1994 will be used for the deductions, but that workers can announce the cancellation of their membership at any time.

Secondarily, Leumi's petition had also attacked the Histadrut's agreement with the state and most of the country's major

employers whereby all non-union members would pay a 0.7% tax to the Histadrut (members pay 0.9%). This was the section of the agreement in which the court initially seemed to find the most merit, since it issued injunctions against collection of this tax.

However, Leumi dropped this issue once its own funding was assured.

In a related matter, the Association of Secondary School Teachers yesterday withdrew its petition against an organization tax

collection agreement slated to be signed by the state and the rival Teachers Union, after Justices Aharon Barak, Yitzhak Zamir, and Dalia Dorner said the proper place for the petition was the National Labor Court.

The state promised not to sign the agreement in the next four days, in order to give the association time to file suit in the labor court.

The association does not want the union to collect the tax until a new census is conducted to determine which teachers belong to which group.

Petitioner in wiretap case accused of illegal bugging

RAINE MARCUS

SECURITY company owner David Spector, who has petitioned the High Court of Justice to halt the transfer of prosecution evidence to accused wiretappers Rafi Friedan and Ya'acov Tsur, performed illegal wiretaps himself, according to depositions given in the court yesterday.

According to the sworn depositions, filed by Friedan through his lawyer, Motti Katz, Spector, together with another private investigator, illegally bugged the phone of Gershon Zelkind, the director of Elco. The bugging equipment was set up in Spector's back yard, the statement said.

Spector, who gave a great deal of information to police about Friedan and Tsur, had asked that his statements not be transferred, because they contained professional information about clients.

Spector filed his petition fol-

lowing a similar one by State Attorney Dorit Beinisch, who claimed that transferring all prosecution evidence to Friedan and Tsur would interfere with ongoing police investigations into illegal wiretapping.

In his petition, Spector accuses Katz, who was acting on behalf of Mo'ariv, of offering him \$70,000 to uncover information incriminating Yediot Aharonot in illegal wiretapping.

But Friedan claimed yesterday that Spector, who is employed by Yediot and Ha'aretz to safeguard information there, is not entitled to petition the High Court, since he is not a party to the investigation and he himself was questioned under caution.

"To the best of our knowledge the petitioner [Spector] is not in

charge of the police investigation nor does he have a reason to prevent its disruption," read the deposition.

In response to Beinisch's petition, Friedan declared that most of the 40 charges against him relate to the bugging of cellular phones and faxes, which have never been classified as criminal.

Other offenses, said Friedan, were not committed by him, and in order to prepare his defense it is essential that he have access to all the prosecution evidence.

Yediot publisher Arnon Mozes was also questioned under caution and is a prosecution witness in the trial against Friedan and Tsur, but his statements were not transferred to the defendants.

"Some of the wiretapping offenses that Arnon is suspected of are the same as those I was charged with," wrote Friedan.

US doctors watch live surgery from Jerusalem

Technique used not performed in America

JUDY SIEGEL

SOME 3,500 cardiologists in Washington, D.C. yesterday watched as doctors in Jerusalem - guided by a tiny ultrasound device threaded from the groin to the coronary arteries - inserted tiny mesh cylinders to permanently hold open a patient's clogged, damaged blood vessels.

The technique, developed by Shaare Zedek Hospital catheterization expert Dr. Yaron Almogor, was performed by him, a Palestinian physician, and an Italian cardiologist, and broadcast live by satellite to a symposium at the Washington Convention Center.

Almogor, who had initially worked on the technique at a major catheterization center in Milan, made everything look easy as his team worked on four patients in two rooms.

Dr. Bassel Henbeli, a Nablus physician training in the technique at Shaare Zedek, translated for a 39-year-old Arab patient, who lay fully conscious while he and Dr. Antonio Colombo of Milan inserted a double catheter simultaneously into a bifurcated coronary artery, dangerously narrowed by years of smoking.

Two tiny balloons were inflated,



Dr. Yaron Almogor of Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital points to a monitor during a procedure of the type broadcast live by satellite yesterday to cardiologists in Washington.

expanding the cylinders and placing them exactly at the right spot in a Y-shaped intersection of vessels. It was the first time the dual-balloon procedure was performed here.

Almogor's insertion of an ultra-

sound device into the coronary artery after the mesh is put in place is not performed in the US; Shaare Zedek did 130 of these procedures last year. The ultrasound image shows doctors if the mesh is tightly

attached to the inside of the vessel wall, which drastically reduces the risk of subsequent clotting. Patients are able to get out of bed after six hours and go home in two days.

Court rejects Federman's petition against new GSS chief

EVELYN GORDON

FORMER Kach activist Naom Federman's petition against the appointment of the new head of the General Security Service has no basis, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

The petition charged that K. is unfit to head the GSS for several reasons. First, it said, K.'s unit had recruited Federman as a GSS agent when he was still a minor, without the consent of either his parents or the attorney-general, thereby violating laws about minors. Federman also had several other complaints against K. related to this affair, which he detailed in a classified addition to the petition.

The petition also cited press reports that K. had arranged a permit for his brother-in-law to bring in workers from the territories while a closure was in force; the fact that K. had never served in the GSS unit dealing with Arab terror; and K.'s alleged antipathy toward the political Right.

Justices Aharon Barak, Yitzhak Zamir, and Dalia Dorner said they were primarily concerned with the accusation that K. had violated the closure to arrange workers for his brother-in-law. However, Justice Ministry High Court division head Nili Arad said the story was not true. It had been investigated by the GSS comptroller, she said, who found that K. had merely asked if this were possible, but had dropped the idea on being told it was not. He was reprimanded for the incident, she added.

The justices agreed with her that the rest of Federman's arguments were equally baseless, and that the prime minister had properly weighed all the relevant factors before appointing K. They therefore rejected the petition and charged Federman NIS 5,000 in court costs.

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The PLO campaign

YASSER Arafat's inability to get a quorum for the PLO's executive committee meeting in Cairo, where only half the members showed up, clearly reflects the waning popularity of the Oslo agreement among Palestinians. As one observer put it, a year ago, two thirds of the Palestinian population supported the accord, now two thirds oppose it. The "no show" committee members obviously prefer not to associate with what a majority of Palestinians consider a failure.

Two main reasons are cited for this decline in the agreement's popularity. Its implementation is way behind schedule: Israeli withdrawal from Arab population centers in Judea and Samaria is not being effected; elections for the Palestinian governing body are not being held, and no Arab prisoners are being released.

There is also no progress on the economic front. On the contrary. A year and a half after the famous White House handshake, conditions in Gaza are worse than at any time in recent memory. Added to the hardships caused by local bureaucratic chaos and over 50 percent unemployment is the suffering resulting from the Israeli-imposed closures following terrorist incidents.

Even more discouraging to the tens of thousands of Arabs who have always counted on work in Israel is that the Israeli economy seems to be adjusting to life without them. They are being replaced, permanently, by an ever-growing number of foreign workers and immigrants.

To counter this economic deterioration, the government is counting on grants, loans and investments by the "donor states": the industrial countries of the West and Japan, and the oil-rich Arab regimes. The assumption is once the money begins flowing into the territories and the inhabitants' lot improves, support for the process will increase, terrorism will decline if not disappear, and peace will reign.

How much economic conditions affect the agreement's appeal is not at all clear. The belief that a higher standard of living will eliminate Islamic fanaticism and anti-Israel passions has little to support it. As a recent Palestinian poll shows, the exact opposite is true: the greatest hostility for Israel and the most enthusiastic support for "the armed struggle" is found in the more comfortable professional and middle classes, not among refugee-camp dwellers. Often ignored, too, is that few societies in the world experienced the stunning rise in living standards enjoyed by the Palestinians before the intifada. It did nothing to ameliorate the hatred.

The PLO seems to realize this. The Palestin-

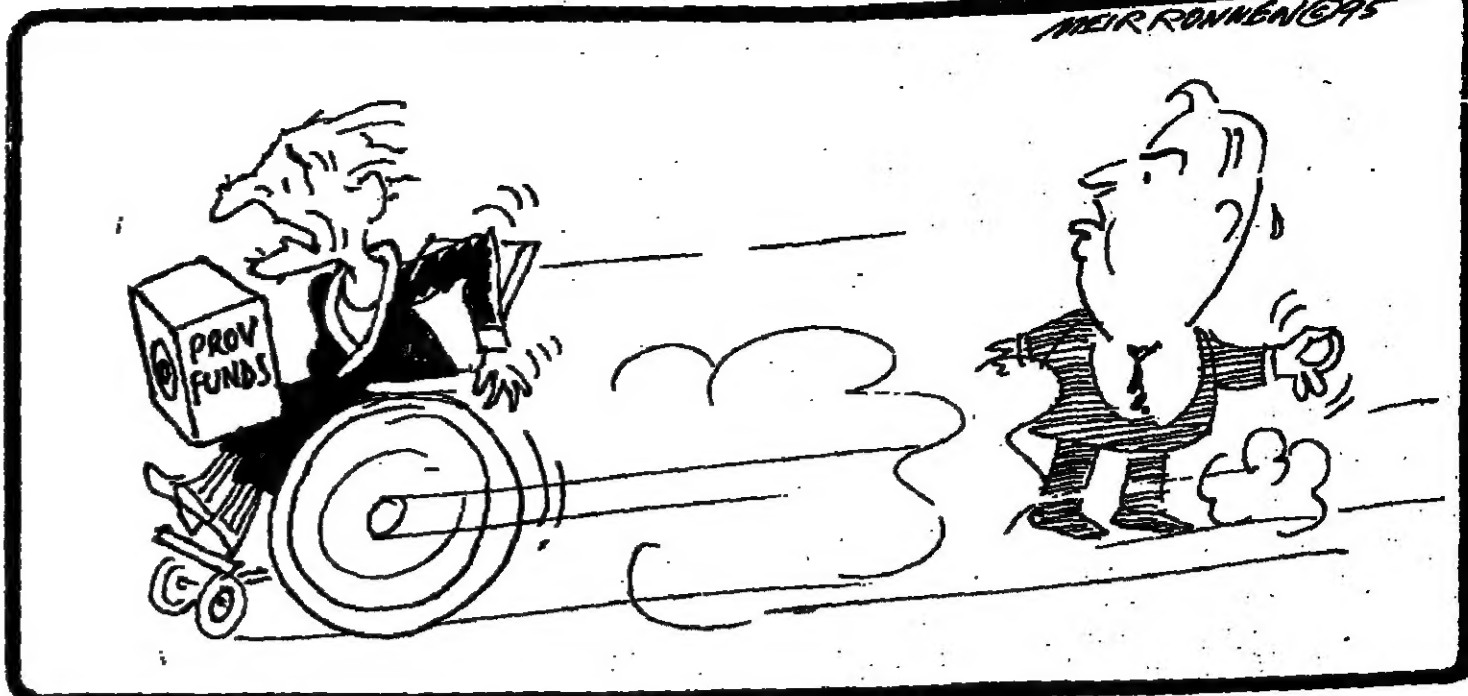
ian Authority does, of course, bitterly complain about unkept promises of aid, and it persistently demands support from anyone willing to listen. But despite cries of crisis, it is doing little to inspire trust among the donor countries. It is neither organizing its government offices nor establishing proper oversight procedures to satisfy international financial institutions. Clearly, the Palestinian leadership has few illusions about the miraculous effect of economic betterment. Unlike the Israeli government, it does not expect the availability of jobs in Gaza to reduce Islamic zeal.

To keep the Oslo agreement alive, which among Palestinians means getting Israel to withdraw from Judea and Samaria, the PLO prefers to revert to a traditional Arab strategy. In Cairo, it decided to appeal to the United Nations Security Council and to support the move by launching a world-wide campaign to blame Israel for the impasse. Since even the super-dovish Labor government seems reluctant to increase the danger of massive terrorist strikes by withdrawing from the territories, the PLO clearly hopes that international pressure will do what direct negotiations cannot.

That the appeal to the UN is a violation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements does not seem relevant. After all, the PLO has violated virtually every commitment and provision of the Declaration of Principles. But Israel must realize that permitting international intervention will set a fateful precedent.

The whole point of making concessionary agreements with the neighboring regimes and the PLO is that they should bring about a normalization of Israel-Arab relations. The resolution of disputes through bilateral negotiations or by mutually agreed-upon arbitration is a cornerstone of such normalization. Indeed, article 15 of the Oslo agreement states that "Disputes...shall be resolved by negotiations through the Joint Liaison Committee...Disputes which cannot be settled by negotiations may be resolved by a mechanism of conciliation to be agreed upon by the parties."

What makes the PLO appeal to the UN Security Council particularly worrisome is that other Arab regimes, including Egypt, are supporting it. That there is a concerted Arab effort to blame the building of homes in settlements, rather than continued terrorism, for the freeze in the agreement's implementation is reprehensible enough. That both the PLO and Egypt are inviting international pressure on Israel in the hope of forcing it to act against its interests makes a mockery of the peace process.



The process still has life in it

ABBA EBAN

THE weekly poll in last Friday's *Yediot Aharanot* tells the world that 56 percent of the adult Israeli population favors the continuation of the peace process, as against 42 percent who would like it to end.

This indicates that the opposition is more distant from success than the American media would have us believe. The same conclusion arises from the accompanying analysis of voting intentions. These show 41 percent for Rabin, 33 percent for Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, and 14 percent for Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan. The reputed opposition lead is not yet canceled, but it is clearly dwindling.

The current Israeli administration is not in terminal decline. It should be addressing itself less to its own internal problems and more to the contract that it made with the Israeli nation two-and-a-half years ago.

It is a serious matter for Israel to be even in temporary default on its most important international obligations. None of the timetables laid down at Oslo have been carried out. There is little evidence of an urgent intention to expand the Palestinian self-government regime to broader areas of jurisdiction. Since the peace process, gave Israel an immense boost to its international stature and sent the prestige of its leaders rocketing skyward, the prolongation of the present deadlock would raise grave issues of credibility.

The fact that no visible benefits have yet accrued to the Palestinian side of the equation threatens the long-term viability of the

Oslo-Cairo accords. The Palestinians have added nothing to their physical power, but they have gained in the solidarity that flows toward them from the Arab region. Their frustrations put more hurdles on Israel's diplomatic road than seemed likely between Madrid and Casablanca.

In this situation, the task of

satisfied with virtually nothing.

In Gaza and Jericho the closures would have been less harmful to the common interest if they had been compensated by a real flow of resources from the donor nations with which Israel has more than a negligible influence. If the closed borders foment volcanic despair, can they also be

But it won't be fully restored without some input from Israel

getting the peace process back into gear cannot be executed by changes in Cairo, Amman, Gaza, Damascus, and Washington, without some input from Israel. The high moments in the peace journey sprang from convergence, not from unilateral initiatives.

With Egypt the need is not for any premature signature, but for a process of common counsel leading to a formula on the subject of long-term regional security. Egypt was first, not second or third, among the contributors to regional stability. Its concerns have been overstated, but they are not negligible.

WITH THE Palestinians there has to be some judgment about the degree of anti-terrorist success that can reasonably be demanded of them. There must be a median point between asking them for everything and being

bailed as reinforcements of security?

Another question affects the US role. The US is committed to the hit to work for the success of the peace process. America and Israel have never been inspired by a joint foreign policy objective as they are now. Yet current US activities have a tentative and hesitant look.

All experience proves that a trusted third party can often submit ideas that neither party could initiate itself or accept from its adversary. But for the working of this, principle, neither the 1974 disengagement agreements nor the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty could ever have come about. Without some American-constructed stepping stones, no river will ever be traversed.

In earlier times American mediation might have been misconstrued as pressure. Now that Israel has a greater influence on

American Middle Eastern policy than America has on the policies of Israel, this consideration falls away. The kind of involvement that Kissinger and Carter deployed in the mid-1970s would not be discouraged by Israeli administrations today.

Beyond these immediate horizons, the deeper problems of the peace process demand earlier deliberations than seemed necessary in the leisurely timetables of Oslo.

The lengthy interim periods envisaged in the Declaration of Principles are the deadliest enemies of the peace process. It is preposterous to believe that the problems of final status, interstate relationships, boundaries, security undertakings and the tension between the rival calls for "separation" and "integration" can all limp slowly forward across several years.

The cumbersome efforts needed for interim arrangements with networks of new roads, and complex spider-webs of jurisdiction, would be better invested in final status talks.

It should be recalled that in the matter of readiness to engage the PLO in negotiation, Israeli public opinion preceded and preempted the official decisions. And the polls revealed a more resigned attitude to, spiritual Palestinian independence than there was in Israeli opinion some months ago. It is hard to think of any other way of reconciling the need for separation with the dictates of proximity.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PREPOSTEROUS

Sir, - It is amazing that Abba Eban, who coined the term "Auschwitz borders," now recommends that we retreat to these borders ("Conquests that can't be held," February 10). He postulates two reasons for this policy:

First, overextension cannot be maintained. Among the historic examples for it he cites Napoleon in Moscow. Can this be compared with Israel in Kalkiya?

Second, Israel's wars fought from "defensible" borders were less successful than those fought from "indefensible" ones. It is true that the 1973 war was more traumatic than the Six Day War, but the victory (Israel's army 100 km. from Cairo, an entire Egyptian army surrounded) is no less significant. If this war had started from "Auschwitz borders," Israel would probably no longer exist. Anyway, the thesis that indefensible borders are preferable to defensible ones is too preposterous to require elaboration.

DR. JACOB ROSIN
Netanya.

RAIL TRAFFIC

Sir, - I wholeheartedly agree with Mickey Loeb's sentiments (Letters, February 3). Unless the planning of an extensive railway network is our immediate priority this little country will not be a fit place to live in.

We can already see what has happened in our lovely Galilee with the massive road system under construction, carving through agricultural valleys (no doubt having to pay massive compensation to private land owners) and cutting through the mountain sides - the roads already overcrowded by thousands of commuters working in Haifa and its industrial surroundings and living in Arab and Jewish villages that have now become large towns. The four-lane super-highway now being constructed will soon be inadequate.

A double-track railway line could not possibly be more expensive. Hundreds of commuters could travel in safe, relaxing, non-polluting comfort on one train, to be met by feeder buses to their various destinations where necessary.

DOREEN GUINSBERG
Haifa.

CONSERVATIVE CONVERSIONS

Sir, - In your issue of February 19, you quoted Rabbi Elud Bandel as having stated, "Those children who had not been circumcised will be circumcised." This is an erroneous quote. As required by Halacha, all male children converted had been circumcised before their immersion in the mikve.

In all the press coverage about the conversion by the Masorti (Conservative) Movement of the adopted children at Kibbutz Hanaton, one important fact was generally omitted. It must be stressed that the Masorti Movement is committed to Halacha and the observance of the mitzvot. Indeed, by education and personal example, its rabbinic and lay leadership continuously strives to raise the level of traditional Jewish observance by its members and those it brings into the fold. However, it does not resort to religious coercion and the use of a modern-day version of thought police.

YEHOSHUA LEOR, President,
RABBI PHILIP SPECTRE, Executive Director,
JAC FRIEDGUT, Treasurer,
The Masorti Movement
Jerusalem.

PREVENTING TERROR

Sir, - After the terrorist murder of taxi driver Rafi Cohen, Jerusalem Police Chief Aryeh Ami's reaction was: "There is no way to prevent such incidents."

I disagree; there are certainly ways to prevent many, if not all terrorist acts, using methods of deterrence. Deterrence means keeping those terrorists who are caught in jail. Deterrence means policing our roads, schools, city streets, etc., using all the manpower we can spare.

I participate in weekly demonstrations of the Women in Green, whose members' average age is 65 and who pose absolutely no threat to public safety. Yet we are usually outnumbered three to one by policemen, who could be put to better use patrolling the city and, yes, preventing terrorist acts.

RUTH GREGOR
Jerusalem.

NO SHAME

Sir, - An Orthodox Jew, I was among those shot by the Nazis in the manner displayed in the Yad Vashem pictures. I suffered five bullet wounds, but unlike the rest of my family, I survived. If I had known at that time that my nakedness would offend Mr. Miller, I would have told the Nazis to wait so I could put on Shabbat clothes. If Mr. Miller or one of the haredim who think like him goes to Yad Vashem and only sees our nakedness, he isn't listening to what we are telling him.

The point is not whether Yad Vashem will stand or fall because of the photographs. The point is not solely the public's right to know. The point is my right to tell. When you visit Yad Vashem, you must put yourself in my position and be glad you weren't there. You must vow to prevent what you see from happening again. You must not think of our "shame" or "immodesty." Mr. Ravitz ("A sign of respect," February 10) must understand that we, the victims, feel no shame. The entire shame is the responsibility of the Nazis and those who allowed it to happen. For the memory of my family and my hopes for my grandchildren, I am willing to expose myself and to expose them.

DORIS PAPIER
Herzliya.

YOUNG JUDEA

Sir, - In response to Marilyn Henry's article of February 13, "Jewish youth movements losing hold in US," I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Hadasah's youth movement, Young Judea, has been active in the US for almost 86 years. Young Judea comprises 6,000 members throughout the US. It has an intensive one-year program in Israel for its post-high-school youth. In addition, it provides the opportunity for hundreds of teenagers to discover Israel for the first time on its summer program.

Facts show that at least 25 percent of Young Judea graduates, participants in the year-course program, make aliya.

ELI HACHOEN,
Director of Public Affairs,
Hadasah Organization in Israel
Jerusalem.

The question is: Who'll blink first?

YOSEF GOELL

THE large majority of the public who, according to all polls, continue to oppose withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for a fishy peace deal with Syria, should be much heartened by two developments this week.

One is Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin's surprising statement casting doubt on the previously axiomatic belief that President Assad has really taken a strategic decision to make peace. The other is the Labor Knesset faction's cynical manipulations to prevent a vote on a private member's bill which would require special majorities in a referendum or a Knesset vote on withdrawal from the Golan.

Both are indications that the "peace with Syria at any price" camp within Labor is belatedly beginning to come to terms with the very real probability that such a deal will not be cut within the lifetime of the present government.

Beilin, the intellectual leader of Labor's "peace at any price" Mashov Circle, obviously aimed his heretical musings at Assad and Washington, as the latest in a series of warnings that time is running out on any deal between Israel and Syria.

For domestic consumption, the leadership of Mashov, which also includes newly elected World Zionist Organization chairman Avraham Burg and Yael Dayan, met yesterday and adopted resolutions calling on the government to reiterate its commitment to pushing for an agreement with Syria during its present term.

There is no real contradiction here, for politicians and diplomats frequently have to speak out of both sides of their mouths, telling different audiences different things. The important nuance is that in order to repeat the warning that time is running out on the possibility of a deal with Assad, Beilin didn't have to ques-

tion the mantra blindly accepted by most Labor leaders regarding Assad's strategic commitment to peace.

That he nevertheless felt constrained to do so should be taken as an indication that the Labor leadership, now more than ever attuned to electoral consider-

ation, is preparing the ground for a retreat from its rash commitment to strike a deal with Assad at any price.

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Labor's Golan mavericks have a good chance of facing Rabin down

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THE LABOR Knesset faction this week decided to impose factional discipline to prevent maverick MKs Avigdor Kahalani, Emanuel Zissman, Ya'acov Shefi, Yoram Lass, and Gedalya Gal from going ahead with their bill requiring special majorities in any vote on Golan withdrawal.

The fact that the faction had to resort to mobilizing Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss and the coalition majority on the House

was eroded in the showdown with Eli Dayan over the long school day issue. Rabin could not afford to be seen to be bowing to another incipient factional revolt.

But unless he comes up with persuasive evidence of a major change in Assad's attitude, bringing with it a palpable change in public opinion, the Golan mavericks stand a better than even chance to have Rabin blink first in any showdown over the issue.

The serious problems entailed in going ahead with the second stage of the Oslo process, especially the rise in Palestinian terrorism, have had a disastrous ef-

fect on public confidence in Rabin's ability to make the right choices. Nowhere has this erosion in public confidence been more profound than on the Golan issue.

The challenge to Rabin's authority by Labor's Golan mavericks is a scary thing for parliamentary backbenchers to do. But in the new political game, in which the political future of MKs is determined as much by the opinion of the party's rank and file, expressed in primaries, as by the chagrin of party leaders, the mavericks are in a good position to face Rabin down.

What they need in their fight for a just cause - one enunciated in Labor's election platform - is evidence of massive public support. This is where the incipient organizational power of the new Third Way movement should come into play.

Now is the time for the movement to exert all its influence and organizational ability to elicit a massive outpouring of public support for Kahalani and the other Golan mavericks. When evidence of the extent of such support becomes clear, Rabin will blink.

The writer comments on public affairs.

POSTSCRIPTS

WHEN MICHAEL Turk finally got the call that would save his life, all he could think about was getting to the hospital as fast as possible. He just forgot to ask which hospital.

The 37-year-old Williamsport, Pennsylvania, man ended up in Pittsburgh for a kidney transplant he had awaited for nearly two years.

The kidney, however, was waiting on ice in Philadelphia. When the emergency room nurse at the Pittsburgh hospital expressed surprise that he was

there, Turk realized his mistake and became frantic.

He depended on dialysis to keep him alive while his name stayed on waiting lists in hospitals at both cities. Donated kidneys do not last long on their own.

"My mind went blank," he said. "That's when other people stepped in. Those people in Pittsburgh were so nice. They could have just said, 'Too bad. You screwed up. Go home.'"

A Pittsburgh social worker tried to get Turk aboard a helicopter or jet as he and his wife

scrambled to come up with the \$4,400 bill. Frantic phone calls were made.

Then the Philadelphia hospital agreed to pay for a jet. "Rather than waste a kidney, we felt it was best to get him to the hospital as soon as possible," a hospital spokeswoman said.

Turk flew across the state in 35 minutes. He was on the operating table within seven hours of his arrival at the Pittsburgh emergency room.

The operation was a success.

Blowing in the wind

SHMUEL KATZ

LAST week, Prime Minister Rabin unveiled a new sample of the fatalities with which he has enriched the black humor of his two-and-a-half years of government. Speaking of the recent Egyptian barrage of anti-Israel acts and demands, he exclaimed, "There is an ill wind blowing from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry" - a wind which, he added, he hoped would soon blow over.

The suggestion that this wind is something new and fleeting serves to befog the truth that it has been blowing incessantly since 1948. Its primary ideological origin is the Moslem-Arab assertion that no Jewish (or indeed Christian) state shall exist in the "Arab world." Like all constant winds, the measure of its violence fluctuates, but its direction does not change.

Rabin is not the only culprit. Every Israeli government since 1977 has ignored or misinterpreted

Sadat was at that time violating his vow never to negotiate, but he received specific absolution from the highest Moslem authority - Cairo's El Azhar University - on the traditional understanding that signing a treaty with Israel would help to gain the ultimate objective.

Then, as though to justify that absolution, no sooner had Israel completed evacuating Sinai (April 1982) than the Egyptian delegate to an all-Arab conference in Kuwait, Ismet Abdel Meguid, announced an 11-point catalog of Egypt's demands on Israel.

What peace? They were the perennial unchanging demands for Israel's self-immolation.

THE WIND continued to blow over the years. Remember Sadat's ferocious refusal to allow a single Jew to remain in Sinai? The failure to implement the various agreements that flowed from the peace treaty? The diplomatic initiatives to dissuade African and other states from resuming relations with Israel?

And what about the blocking of tourism to Israel, as well as the veto of business relations? Egyptian support for anti-Israel UN resolutions - which made nonsense of the Camp David agreement and the peace treaty? And the continued and uninterrupted Nazi-style propaganda against Israel and the Jewish people in the controlled Egyptian media?

The record, even of smugs and contempt, is endless.

For 17 years, President Mubarak has successfully resisted repeated obsequious appeals to visit Israel. He put a plane at the disposal of the murderers of Leon Klinghoffer to help them escape to Tunis. Told of the brutal cold-blooded murder of seven Israeli tourists in Sinai, he dismissed the incident as a matter of no importance.

Now, suddenly, Egypt's massive campaign to get Israel to sign the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty has provoked a burst of self-revelation in Israel.

Shimon Peres, forced to explain Israel's refusal, proclaims that "Israel is the only state in the world threatened with destruction."

In his wake came two important commentators, former generals and now voluble political doves.

Shlomo Gazit wrote (*The Jerusalem Post*, February 14): "The problem we now face, my Egyptian friends, isn't the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region. The real problem, as we see it, is the Arab scheme to destroy Israel as a state and as a people."

And Avraham Tamir saw it the same way in *Yedioth Aharonot* (February 20).

Is it a mere coincidence that just as Egypt began exerting maximum pressure on Israel to sign the NPT, the summit meeting among the heads of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia took place in Alexandria? All three countries are committed to eliminating Israel. All three have been aiming more feverishly than ever.

Israel, already weakened territorially and morally, and threatened by the Rabin-Arafat peace treaty with shrinkage to the 1949 armistice lines, is surely approaching the point of "adequate" vulnerability. At that point, these three will be initiating the next - penultimate - phase of the total reduction of Israel.

Is it not likely, then, that Cairo, Riyadh and Damascus have begun preparing the blueprint for their intervention at that stage?

The writer has published several books on Zionist and Jewish history.

How many times do we have to hear that Israel's dream of peace will always meet the reality of hatred?

ed the Egyptian establishment's unceasing hostility toward Israel's existence.

In signing a peace treaty with Egypt, the Begin government and the Labor opposition alike ignored the evidence that in Egyptian eyes the acquisition of Sinai was primarily the consummation of a phase in the dismantling of Israel. ("Phased" destruction of Israel was originally proposed by the late Tunisian president Habib Bourguiba in 1955 - long before the Six Day War.)

"Maybe they had not read the rabbi's anti-Jewish sermon delivered by Alwan Sadat (yes, the peace-maker) in a Cairo mosque in 1971."

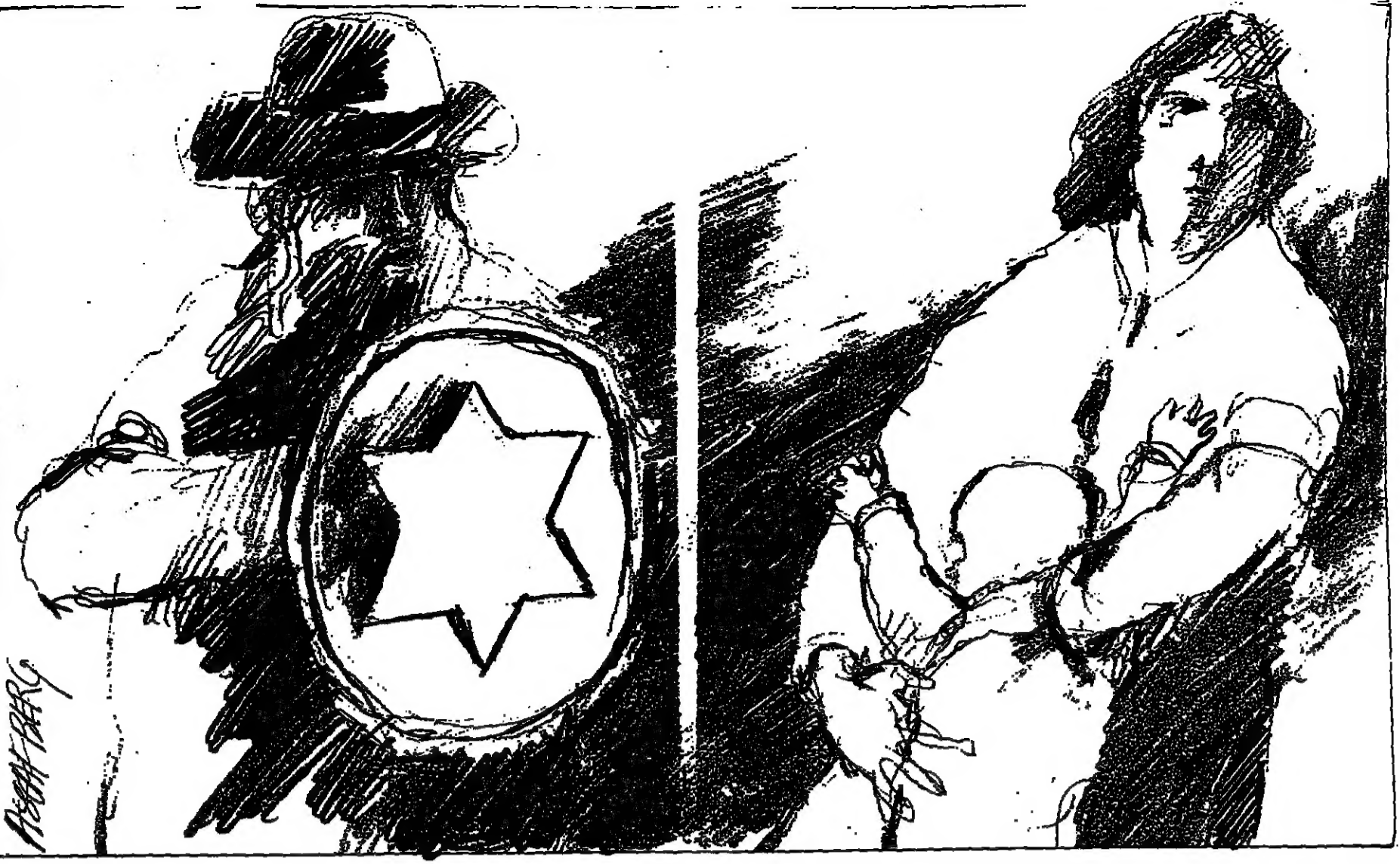
Referring to an "agreement" between Mohammed and the Jews of Medina, he said: "The most splendid thing that the prophet Mohammed did was to drive them out of the whole Arabian peninsula... They are a nation of liars and traitors, contrivers of plots, a people born for deeds of treachery.... We shall not give up an inch of our territory... We shall not negotiate with Israel... nor bargain with them over a single one of the rights of the Palestinian people."

Maybe the Israeli leaders had also never read the published report of the 1975 symposium of the Egyptian intellectual community. There, in summing up, Boutros Boutros-Ghali (now secretary-general of the UN) said that the Jews must give up their status as a nation and Israel as a state, and assimilate as a community in the Arab world. Otherwise, he predicted, there would be repeated wars.

The same idea, couched in more brutal terms, permeates the Palestinian Covenant. Were Israel's political leaders unaware that the lethal covenant had been endorsed - at Rabat in 1974 - by all the Arab states, including Egypt?

They certainly were made aware of that Egyptian "wind" when they heard Sadat himself speaking in the Knesset in November 1977, when he was already negotiating for an agreement with Israel, presumably about Sinai. Here are key passages:

"To be explicit... complete withdrawal from the Arab land captured in 1967 goes without saying... all of it, including Arab Jerusalem..."



Converted, my child still isn't 'Jewish'

RONNI ROSENBLATT

TWO years ago, my husband and I adopted a baby girl from Tashkent in Uzbekistan. This week, she and 16 other children who had been adopted abroad were converted to Judaism by the Conservative Movement at Kibbutz Hanaton.

Most of us had traveled a long way, strewn with obstacles, until we could hold our own children in our arms.

But it seems we have longer to travel, with more struggle and pain ahead.

The Interior Ministry is refusing to register our children as Jews. And even if they do agree, the Rabbinate will never recognize them as Jews. This sets the scene for more obstacles and heartbreak, for us and our children, as they grow up and try to marry and have children of their own.

After the years of struggle to adopt a child, why this intolerance?

Our problems with the establishment began four years ago, when my husband and I turned to

the Department of Child Welfare for help in adopting a child abroad. Since I was then 41 and the age limit for adopting an infant in Israel was 40 for a woman and 45 for her husband, the department rejected us immediately and unconditionally.

We suggested that in a country where the Ministry of Health subsidizes IVF treatment for infertile couples well past the woman's 40th birthday, the department should consider setting both age limits at 45.

The response was a ridiculous combination of excuses and anecdotes as the department tried to explain away its refusal to examine each application on its own merits.

Finally we turned to the High Court, at which point the department, wishing to avoid a precedent-setting court case, quickly agreed to help us in our effort to adopt abroad. But at the same time, they lowered the age limit of prospective adoptive fathers to 40 - a move which would simply

deprive more couples of the opportunity to adopt a child officially.

We finally turned our backs on the child welfare department. Through private means, we went abroad and returned from Uzbekistan with our healthy, beautiful baby girl.

AT THE request of the Na'amat women's organization, the Conservative Movement in Israel agreed to convert my child, and the children of 11 other couples who had adopted abroad, to Judaism.

The Interior Ministry won't register her. Even if it does, the Rabbinate won't recognize her

And the Rabbinate will not convert the adopted children of couples who do not maintain a strictly Orthodox home. The parents must first prove that their home is kosher, and that they observe Shabbat and mitzvot. And they must promise to send the child to a haredi school.

Surely this is an uncomfortably narrow, unrealistic and self-righteous perspective on what it means to create a Jewish home. Only in the Jewish state, I suspect, are the children - albeit adopted - of Jewish parents not considered Jewish.

The conversion ceremony, performed with sensitivity and sincerity by the Masorti rabbis, was halachic in every respect. It was identical to Conservative conversions performed abroad.

Yet, in one of those inexplicable political distortions of the law, the Interior Ministry, which is prepared to accept Masorti conversions performed abroad, will not accept such conversions if they are done in Israel.

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My husband and I could have had our daughter converted abroad, then returned to Israel and registered her, avoiding any confrontation with the establishment. Why didn't we?

We have lived in Israel for over 10 years. My husband serves in the army, and our daughter holds an Israeli passport. Why then, we thought, should we be forced to go abroad to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of the Interior at home?

If the ministry refuses to register our children as Jews, we will appeal to the court once again, with the help of Na'amat.

And if we lose?

My child will still not, by any yardstick meaningful to me, be any less Jewish than I am.

And if, when the time comes, the Rabbinate refuses to marry her, I will have no compunction in advising her to do what we didn't - to go abroad and have the ceremony performed there.

The writer is an architect living in Tel Aviv.

The European Union is no model for peace

SHLOMO AVINERI

AFTER the signing of the Oslo agreement, the European Community became for many, in Israel and abroad, a model for future regional cooperation.

This is a fallacy. It may even become a stumbling block in creating an atmosphere of true reconciliation between Israel and its neighbors, including the Palestinians.

European economic integration has been premised on the fact that Western European societies have achieved a comparable level of development over the centuries. Since the Industrial Revolution, their economic and social development has been similar, and their standards of living too. They developed similar institutions of civil society and democracy.

When Mediterranean countries were added later, this involved massive subsidies, spread over decades, so as to bring Spain, Portugal and Greece up to the level achieved by the older members of the community. The emergence of a European common market depended on the possibility of a horizontal integration among equals.

Israel and the Palestinian territories are at totally different levels of economic and social development, and the only kind of integration between them would be a vertical one, based on inequality and domination.

It would create a veritable Bantustan on Israel's doorstep, certainly not a recipe for peace. It would also perpetuate a structure of dependency as developed during Israeli occupation, with cheap, available and non-unionized Palestinian labor depending on Israeli employers, and vice versa.

Recent terrorist attacks have shown how vulnerable such a structure is, and how it deepens resentment on the one hand and suspicion on the other.

GOOD FENCES make good neighbors. Both our societies have been traumatized by decades of war, and they need time off to build their own self-reliance and internal feeling of security and selfhood.

Palestinians have to be able to develop their society without fears of being dependent on a far superior Israel; Israelis need to be free from the fear that every Palestinian worker is a potential terrorist. The humiliating yet necessary security checks every morning at the Erez checkpoint are just the scenes on which peace and mutual respect will not be built.

There should be as little Israeli presence - economic as well as military - in the Palestinian territories, with as few Palestinians working in Israel as possible as a corollary. A clear border - not impenetrable, but necessitating passports, visas, working permits, etc. - should make each society more assured within its own frontiers.

Surely the Palestinians need assistance for economic development. Some of it may come from the international community - but international aid procedures are complex, bureaucratic and take time to bear fruit. The PLO and the Palestinian Authority need cash, and quickly. This could - and should - come from the richer Arab countries like Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. These countries have support-

Israel and the Palestinians need decoupling, not integration

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ed the Palestinians in the past in their terror and propaganda efforts. They should be encouraged by all supporters of the peace process to express their solidarity with their Palestinian brethren in their moment of historical opportunity by underwriting their economic development.

Israel and the Palestinians need decoupling, not integration. From the wider perspective, any serious assessment of the future horizons of Israeli economic development shows that this will depend on our successful integration into the world economy - Europe, North America, the Pacific rim - not by dragging us deeper into the Third World economies of the Arab countries.

The sooner we realize this, the fewer misunderstandings will occur down the difficult road toward peace and conciliation in the area.

The writer, professor of political science at the Hebrew University, is a former director-general of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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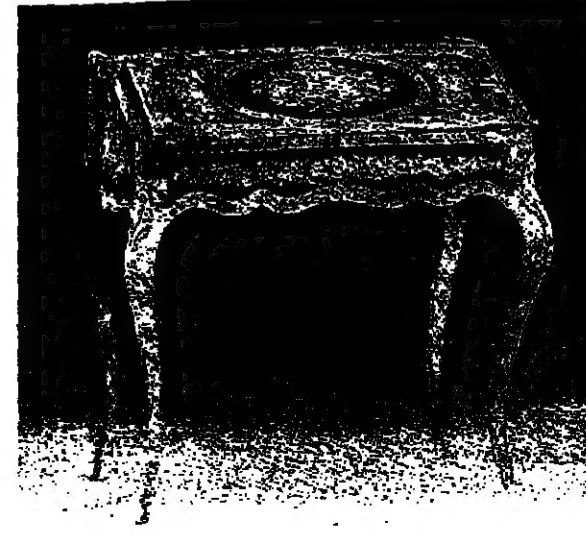
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Chechens mark deportation anniversary

SLEPTSOVSK, Russia (Reuter) — As Russia's army resumed its bombardment of rebel Chechnya, Moscow marked Soviet Army Day yesterday and Chechens commemorated their own mass deportation by Soviet authorities 51 years ago.

One million Chechens, forced into the Russian empire last century after decades of resistance, were cleared out of their homeland within 24 hours on February 23, 1944. Soviet dictator Josef Stalin accused them of collaborating with Nazi Germany.

Thirteen years later, after Stalin's death, those who had survived — about 600,000 — were allowed to return from their exile in the frozen steppes of Kazakhstan.

The tiny Moslem people, now again under heavy attack from Russian forces since Moscow sent troops to crush its latest three-year independence bid, is in the grip of a legend that it will be brought to the brink of extinction every half-century.

"Deportation by Stalin was supposed to be the eighth of the nine catastrophes that would devastate the Chechen people," said Meirbek Magomedov, a Chechen businessman living in Moscow. "Many people think now that we are living through the ninth."

Russian troops marched into Chechnya on December 11. Since then, Russian human rights workers opposed to Moscow's of-

ficial policy say 24,350 civilians from the capital Grozny have died in a devastating Russian bombardment of residential districts.

On the eve of the anniversary, Chechnya's pro-Russian opposition leader Umar Avturkhanov called on his countrymen to lay down their arms and abandon the struggle with Russia, Interfax news agency said.

Army bosses have been sharply criticised for the muddled and bloody military campaign against the tiny region. In their turn, they blame the post-Soviet government for running down the military and starving it of funds.

President Boris Yeltsin, who laid a wreath at Moscow's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier yesterday, has promised army reform to ensure the troops deal more efficiently with any future Chechen-style conflicts.

Chechen fighters kept the ex-supersoldier army at bay in Grozny for weeks with only light weapons. They only moved out, cursing Russia's refusal to fight at close range, once long-range Russian shelling had smashed the entire city centre.

After a brief ceasefire last week, which began just before Yeltsin's annual address to parliament and ended almost immediately afterwards, Moscow resumed heavy shelling of rebel fighters and villages close to Grozny on Wednesday.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin walks behind military honor guards during a ceremony at the Kremlin's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier yesterday, to mark the holiday honoring the military. (AP)

Clinton, Chretien plan to shore up partnership

OTTAWA (AP) — After dodging a thorny border-crossing dispute, President Clinton plans to shore up the world's largest trading partnership during a goodwill summit with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

The two-day meeting, began yesterday. It comes as relations between the United States and Canada are even calmer than usual. Trade tiffs have been nearly eliminated and the neighbors recently expanded their 1988 free-trade pact to include Mexico. Canada is the largest US trading partner, with more than \$250 billion passing back and forth each year. The United States buys \$14.5 billion more in goods and services from Canada than it sells.

"That's why this is a good time for the trip, because the time to fix the roof is when the sun is shining," US Ambassador James Blanchard said. Seeing storm clouds rising on the eve of the summit, Clinton dumped plans for a mandatory border-crossing fee of \$3 per vehicle and \$1.50 per pedestrian. The proposal, included in his new budget, drew opposition from US lawmakers and Canadians and was abandoned Wednesday.

Under Clinton's new plan, states would get incentives to raise fees voluntarily along their borders

with Canada or Mexico.

The move left little room for summit fireworks, although Canadians will listen warily to what Clinton says about a push to separate Quebec from the rest of Canada. He was to meet yesterday with Lucien Bouchard, leader of the Bloc Quebecois and the most popular separatist figure in Quebec.

It will be the first meeting between a US president and a separatist leader. The United States has long said it supports a united Canada, and only Canadians can decide the separatist issue.

Aides said Clinton may expand on that theme slightly by promoting the merits of "multiculturalism" in society, which could be seen as a subtle signal to the separatist movement or — at the very least — a plea for an end to the bitter dispute. But the president planned, in arrival remarks at the airport and an address to parliament yesterday, to focus on the long, US-Canada partnership. Clinton and Hillary were to attend a state dinner.

Clinton and Chretien, who talked by telephone Tuesday night, could discuss some nagging trade problems at the summit. Disputes over softwood lumber, wheat exports and North Pacific fishing create an occasional stir.

'Police ignored romantic link in Simpson trial'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The candles burned in the living room and bathroom. The bath was drawn. The bed sheets were ruffled.

Nicole Brown Simpson may have been planning for romance the night she was murdered, O.J. Simpson's lawyers suggested, but police ignored these clues — and the possibility of a mysterious gentleman caller — in their investigation.

Over and over, defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. pressed Detective Tom Lange during cross-examination. Did police check whether Ms. Simpson had a male visitor that night? Did they photograph the nine candles burning upstairs? Did they perform tests to determine if she had been raped?

The normally placid Lange, on the stand for the third day, bristled at the questions. He insisted that the only man to visit Ms. Simpson late the night of June 12 was Ronald Goldman. Sex, consensual or otherwise, never entered into the attack.

"In my observation and my experience, sex was the last thing on the mind of this attacker," Lange said, abandoning his usual dispassionate police lingo. "It was an overkill, a brutal overkill. There was no evidence of rape."

Cochran seemed taken aback by Lange's statement and tried to object in mid-sentence, but was overruled. Court was recessed for the day moments later. The cross-examination was part of a long-range defense attempt to portray the police investigation of the murders of Ms. Simpson and Goldman as sloppy and incomplete.

Lange was to return to the stand yesterday for more cross-examination.

The late Dr. Abraham KORN formerly of Preston, England

For news of cousin Raia in San Diego, his daughter Naomi, or another daughter should call Harold Rich in London: 44181 789 4823.

France denies spy crisis with US

PARIS (AP) — Authorities have opened an investigation into how French accusations of American spying were leaked to the press, an indiscretion that Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said yesterday "scandalized" him.

Le Monde newspaper, which broke the story Wednesday, meanwhile carried accounts from two of three French officials said to have been "unconscious victims" of the CIA. Both indicated the information they provided appeared "without interest."

The Interior Ministry opened the investigation immediately after Le Monde revealed that five Americans — four of them diplomats — were asked to leave the country for spying. Communications Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said.

Juppe said there was no crisis in French-American relations despite rare public charges of spying among allies. Mimicking Washington's reaction, he said he was "scandalized that a delicate problem" was made public.

The Americans have said they

were astonished by the public display of matters usually handled with discretion.

Le Monde, an independent daily, reported that the CIA station chief and four other Americans were engaged in political and economic espionage, bribing French officials to procure information, particularly on audiovisual policy and 1993 world trade talks.

The paper quoted extensively from counterintelligence documents and information appearing to emanate from the Interior Ministry.

Yesterday Le Monde provided personal accounts of how two French officials, neither identified by name, were allegedly wooed into service, in one case by a woman who was "impassioned" by small-talk on French politics and also in world trade negotiations.

"She was no Mata Hari," wrote Le Monde. "She was rather older than me and not very pretty," the paper quoted the official as saying.

New head of US Holocaust museum reprimanded for exaggerating qualifications

WASHINGTON (AP) — The man due to become director of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum was reprimanded for misrepresenting his achievements as a university professor, The Washington Post reported yesterday.

In 1991 Cornell University determined that Steven T. Katz had "knowingly and deliberately misrepresented his claims of completed and published scholarly works," the Post said, quoting from memos and documents.

It said that on resumes and university documents dating to 1983, Katz described a multivolume work on the Holocaust as "accepted ... for publication" or "being prepared for publication" by Harvard University Press.

The Post said a spokesman for the publisher said Katz never had an actual contract for the book, which was published last year by Oxford University Press.

Katz said he had an "oral contract" with Harvard but that he went to Oxford when Harvard University Press said they wanted

to shorten the book. "There was no intention to mislead," Katz told the newspaper.

The Post also reported that Katz's salary was frozen for three years and he was barred from future study leaves because he took a University of Pennsylvania job during a 1989 study leave granted by Cornell.

Katz said he did not know there was a rule against taking another job while on paid leave and was quoted as saying some of the allegations against him were "a tissue of lies and rumors."

In response to inquiries by the Post, the executive committee of the US Holocaust Memorial Council, which acts as the museum's board, voted unanimously to support Katz.

Katz, 50, was selected to succeed Jehoshaphat Weinberg, founding director of the museum, and is due to take over on March 16. He has a bachelor's degree from Rutgers, a master's degree from New York University and a doctorate from Cambridge.

Rebels say 200 killed in Algiers jailbreak

PARIS (Reuter) — Algerian Moslem fundamentalist rebels said yesterday security forces killed up to 200 prisoners in what authorities called a thwarted escape bid from an Algiers prison.

The exiled leadership of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) said in a statement that more than 100 prisoners were killed at the Seladji prison on Wednesday.

Anwar Haddam, head of the Washington-based FIS Parliamentary Delegation said in a separate statement which gave conflicting figures that security forces killed 200 in a "deliberate massacre

of political prisoners" at the central Algiers top security jail.

The toll cited by Haddam far exceeded reports by diplomats and Algerian newspapers who said nearly 100 prisoners were killed. The FIS leadership and Haddam have diverged in past statements.

There was no official confirmation of the death toll. Algerian authorities have admitted security forces killed multitudes after they slit the throats of four wardens.

"The massacre cost the lives of more than 100 prisoners," the FIS leadership said.

UN accuses Bosnians of blocking peacekeepers

SARAJEVO (Reuter) — A United Nations official yesterday accused the Bosnian government army of obstructing peacekeepers in what appeared to be an orchestrated campaign of harassment.

The actions seemed to stem from frustration with the peacekeeping mission and the Moslem-led government's belief that the former UN commander, British Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose, had caved in to its Bosnian Serb foes, UN sources said.


UN officers in Zagreb also expressed concern about the dangers to peacekeepers as they began to withdraw from Croatia after March 31.

In Belgrade, diplomatic efforts to resolve the war in the former Yugoslavia struggled on. Envoys from France, Germany and Brit-

ain were expected in the Serbian capital for talks with President Slobodan Milosevic.

UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Alexander Ivanov, who was listing UN problems with government troops, said: "A number of incidents in the last few days suggest there may be an orchestrated campaign organized by the BiH (Bosnian army) against UNPROFOR personnel."

The Bosnian army has usually co-operated with UNPROFOR, sent to Bosnia in 1992 as civil war erupted over its secession from the Yugoslav federation. The Bosnian Serbs have been more obstructive, never allowing UN bases on their territory and limiting the movement of UN military observers.


To Maj. Gen. Giora Romm
and the family
Deepest sympathy on the death of your
Father ז"ר
Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak
Chief of the General Staff
and the I.D.F. Generals


With great sorrow, we announce the death of
EMIL MOSKOVICS
Deeply mourned by
Daughter, Helen and Mel Elberger
Grandchildren, Avrami and Heshy
Elizabeth, New Jersey
Daughter, Beverly and Jack Hollander
Grandson, Moshe Meli, Jerusalem
Shiva until Tuesday night, February 28,
at 10/2 Chopin Street, Jerusalem

David and Maryla Korn of Washington, DC
mourn the loss of their dear friend
GIDEON SHOMRON
who did so much for the security and welfare
of the State of Israel.
Condolences to the entire Shomron family.

In deepest sorrow, we announce the passing of
our eldest son
SHLOM JACOB BAR DAVID (Dunsky)
on February 22, 1995.
Deeply mourned by
His parents, Dave and Nicky Dunsky
His brothers, Herzl and Nechama,
and Ilan
His son, Noel Dunsky
and all the relatives in Israel and abroad
Shiva at the Dunsky residence, 10 Chemik Street, Hod Hasharon, Tel. 09-440882.

Our beloved
RUTH REISER
is no more.
The funeral will take place today,
Friday, February 24, 1995 (1 Adar 24, 5755) at 11 a.m.
at the Shikun Vatikim Cemetery, Netanya.
We will meet at the gate.
The Bereaved Family
Shiva at the home of the deceased, 38 Harav Kook, Netanya.

The unveiling of the tombstone and a memorial service for our
beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather
Cantor MARTIN HOROWITZ
will take place on Sunday, February 26, 1995, at 2 p.m.
at the Har Hamenuhot Cemetery, Jerusalem.
We will meet in the parking lot.
Clara Horowitz and Family


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their fields of activity and/or made a significant contribution to the
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• Information on the selection of awardees will be sent only to the candidates who are
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• The last date for submission of names of proposed awardees is March 31, 1995.

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S say
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News in Focus

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1995

New chief to lead GSS in its changing role

K has been criticized for bias against rightists and a lack of background in handling Arab terror, but his strengths lie elsewhere, Steve Rodan reports

IN Franz Kafka's 1915 novel, *The Trial*, Joseph K. is a quiet bank official accused of an undefined crime by a brutal bureaucracy. The investigation in court turns into a farce; the justice system only compounds his bewilderment; and Joseph K. exhausts himself looking for someone to tell him what he's done wrong.

In 1995 Israel, the new head of the General Security Service is being referred to as K, the initial of his first name. K's appointment by Prime Minister Rabin this week puts him in charge of an intelligence service reeling from an onslaught of Islamic terrorism and the breakdown of its network of informers in the territories.

Moreover, the service - with the advent of diplomatic relations with nations in the Arab and Islamic world and former Soviet bloc - now faces the challenge of battling an increase in espionage within our borders.

"The war against terror is the spearhead of the GSS," a senior security source says. "If an accord is reached with the Palestinians over IDF redeployment in the territories, then the GSS will have a vastly reduced presence. We have to find new ways to make up for this loss."

Is K the right man for the job of what is now regarded as the most prominent security service in Israel?

The question is novel. A decade ago, the appointment of the GSS chief, formally responsible only to the prime minister, would have made little more than a line in the news. But after years of scandals - ranging from executions and torture to giving false testimony in court - the security service has become a fixture in the public spotlight.

"The GSS chief has to be the best administrator around," says Rafi Siron, a longtime agent who has left the GSS. "The reason is that the GSS is one of those groups whose activities depend on excellent organization and coordination. This is the first thing needed for the appointment."

Some Israelis will not know K's identity until he steps down. The exceptions are all those who have seen the graffiti outside the office of the IDF censor in Jerusalem, or the leaflets purportedly distributed by right-wing critics with K's full name, address, phone number and details of his career. They know that K is 44 years old and the son of a former Jerusalem judge, and that he has been a GSS staffer since 1970.

Unlike most of his predecessors, the new GSS chief is not an expert in Arab affairs and has little experience in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

His career included years abroad as head of security for Israel's embassies and consulates. When he returned to the

country he became head of the northern region, which included the Golan Heights.

HIS EXPERTISE centers on internal Israeli issues. As head of the so-called Jewish section, K headed the investigations of the far-left *Derech Hanitzotz* newspaper, whose Jewish and Arab staffers were charged in 1988 with serving and belonging to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

None of the *Derech* defendants, who were sentenced to a maximum of 30 months in jail, remembers K from the hours of interrogation. "I have no idea who he is," says Michal Schwartz, who was sentenced to 18 months. "During the interrogations, you meet all sorts of people, but they don't give you their real names. They give you nicknames."

There are 27 Jews who were arrested in 1984 on suspicion of being members of a terrorist underground in the territories; most of them were convicted. None says he can identify K. "We didn't have any personal contact with him," says one of the convicted underground members, Natan Natanson, an IDF officer who lives in Shilo. "But we know he was very much involved in our case."

K reviewed the threat of left- and right-wing Jewish extremism in a study for the National Defense College. But in a thesis for his master's degree in 1990, at Haifa University, K chose to focus on the right wing.

The 175-page study, obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*, reviews Israel's far-right and its illegal activities. The Jewish underground is analyzed, as are the now-outlawed Kach movement (of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane) and Gush Emunim.

By page 2, K comes to the point. In what he calls his central thesis, the GSS chief says: "The ideologically motivated crime of the extreme right wing threatens the democratic values of Israeli society..."

"There is a radicalization of the violations of the law committed in the name of ideology by the extreme right, regarding the amount of activity and the force of this activity," K continues. "Israeli society displays tolerance toward ideological lawbreakers of the extreme right and this grants, albeit belatedly, legitimacy to these activities."

K predicts that progress toward a settlement with the Palestinians will be accompanied by an intensification of right-wing extremism.

He stresses that extremism can be controlled only by tough pre-emptive action.

His fear is that rising right-wing extremism will clash with that of the left wing, a collision K views



as catastrophic for Israel, resulting in possible civil war. "I am not an angry prophet," K writes. "but a man who sees things in a sober manner, through a long and tortuous essay, which is dedicated to the dangers to the existence of the State of Israel, this being none other than the ideological lawbreaking of the extreme right in Israel."

K's conclusion does not surprise his colleagues. "The GSS is not any different from any other organization," a former GSS official says. "You have those who support the Likud and those who like Labor and Meretz."

RIGHT-WING critics of K use his thesis as evidence of what they call his obsession with Jewish settlers. Right-wing parliamentarians point to the case of Lt. Oren Edri, who had been accused of being part of a new Jewish underground based in Kiryat Arba and was released months later without being convicted of any criminal charges.

Noam Federman, the former spokesman for the banned Kach movement, has submitted a petition to the High Court charging that K violated the law protecting minors. Federman said that,

while he was still a minor, he was recruited by K to spy on Jewish extremists.

Arnon Sofer, a professor at Haifa University who helped K with his thesis, says the 1990 study does not reflect at all on the professionalism of the new GSS chief. "This is a lot of noise over nothing," Sofer says. "It was natural that K chose this topic. He has dealt with the right wing in the past and will deal with it in the future. Of course, he wrote about the subject with some passion. Do you expect him to write about it in an apathetic way?"

On Orr, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, says: "I think he is the right man for the job."

K's supporters have expressed their views openly. The naysayers in security officialdom have said their piece in private. Some question his ethics, pointing out that he used his position to allow Palestinians to work on a construction project in Israel despite the closure of the territories. K was given a mild reprimand.

Others say they are worried by K's lack of experience in the field as well as with the Palestinians.

chief. Two other department heads submitted their resignations this week in the wake of K's appointment.

Reuven Hazak, a former GSS official who knows both candidates, says G's qualities are insufficient. "It's not enough for the head of the GSS to know who are Arabs," he says. "If you are an Arabist, then you should be head of the department, not head of the service."

For his part, G sounds magnanimous. "I wish him the best of luck and I hope he succeeds in leading the service," he says.

K, however, will be measured against his predecessor Y, who retired next week after seven years at the top. Y is flamboyant, a skilled trumpeter who played in jazz bands as a university student. He is outgoing, maintains relations with a handful of journalists, and has been mentioned in gossip columns as being seen at society events.

But his high profile was tolerated by Rabin and his predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir. They regarded Y as an excellent administrator and analyst who rebuilt a crumbling security service. Y, whose name and picture will be revealed next week, took over an organization that was shattered by the 1984 Bus 300 affair in which then-chief Avraham Shalom ordered the execution of two Palestinian hijackers already in detention, and then testified that the killings had been committed by then-Brig-Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai. Mordechai was exonerated and rose to head all three IDF regional commands before retiring last year.

Like Y, Shalom was for years enveloped in praise. "Avrum lied and kept lying," a senior security official involved in the Bus 300 affair recalls. "He failed because he was too sure of himself and too used to hearing how great he was."

Shalom was forced to resign in 1986 and was replaced by Avraham Harmelin, who died last year. Harmelin, GSS chief from 1964 to 1974, was soon viewed as unsuitable for the job a second time around and resigned in 1988.

"He was a weak figure," the security official recalls. "And this was in an organization in which strength means everything and where a strong hand is expected."

The outgoing chief groomed K, making him his deputy and crediting him with the current war against Hamas, which the GSS says has foiled six planned attacks in the last few months. Defense sources say that for a long time Rabin considered bringing in an outsider to head the GSS, until he was persuaded that doing so would hurt morale

as well as the functions of the service.

AS K ENTERS his post, some of the vices of the Shalom regime still plague the GSS. One problem - pointed to by the State Comptroller's Report made public last month - is the lack of parliamentary control over the GSS. Another is unauthorized GSS interference in the police's criminal investigations. According to testimony this week at the trial of former interior minister Aryeh Deri, GSS sources told him and his codefendants that police were tapping their phones.

There are also recurring episodes in which GSS agents provide misleading information to officials and the courts. Last month, Jerusalem District Court president Vardi Zeiler accused the GSS of misleading Shimon Peres, when he was acting defense minister, to sign an administrative detention order. Zeiler made his accusation in a ruling that extended the detention of Amjad Zajir, a Beit Hanina resident suspected of aiding Hamas terrorists. He also wrote that the GSS disguised assessments as facts in describing the danger posed by Zajir.

"These examples point to a serious concern of improper behavior that has been adopted by the GSS," Zeiler wrote in the January 19 ruling. "Harnessing the cart before the horse through 'sanitizing' the facts, even if done believing that the end justifies the means, is the birth of a disaster, which reflects the state of intelligence on the eve of the Yom Kippur War."

For some security officials, K's appointment signals a change of priorities in the GSS. With the IDF eventually planning to move out of Arab towns and villages in the territories, Palestinian terrorism may no longer be the sole domain of the service.

The GSS will expand in other areas. One former senior GSS official who knows K says right-wing extremism will be one area. Other senior officials dismiss this and say the police will be given more responsibility for Jewish settlers opposed to Palestinian rule.

Another developing field will be counterespionage. For Siron, the area of counterespionage is a return to the early 1960s when Tel Aviv was a playground for the intelligence services of the Soviet bloc. As a result, a man with K's background might be just what is needed for what Siron expects to be the new priorities of the GSS.

In this case, K might end up resembling the character of the same name in another Kafka novel, *The Castle*, in which the protagonist tries to impose a new order in a dark and forbidding place.

National Insurance Institute

Addendum to Social Insurance Agreement between Israel and Germany

On February 12, 1995, Israel and Germany signed an addendum to their Social Insurance Agreement.

Under the terms of this addendum, Israelis who come from Eastern Europe will be able to claim an old age and survivor's pension, if they meet the following criteria:

1. They immigrated to Israel before July 1, 1990.
2. They have accumulated years of work in Eastern European countries.
3. During the period in which the influence of National Socialism spread to what was then the applicant's homeland, the applicant's language and culture were German, and he/she was aged 18 or over.

The NII is now discussing with the German national insurance institutes guidelines for the submission of claims. Booklets will be issued in Hebrew, German and English, giving details of these rights, and explaining the way in which a claim should be made to the NII.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT

the majority of those entitled to this pension will not be asked to pay insurance contributions: The amount they should pay to the German authorities will be deducted from the amount due to them (the pension will be paid retroactively).

NOTE

that the addendum to the Social Insurance Agreement will become effective, after ratification by both countries. Claims for the pension may be submitted, up to two years after the ratification date.

Information and Public Relations

National Insurance - Your Social Welfare Shield

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Prof. Zvi Koren is the Director of the Edelstein Center for the Analysis of Ancient Textiles and Related Artifacts, Shenkar College of Textile Technology and Fashion, Ramat-Gan.

The lectures and tours will take place on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. on the following dates (coffee - 9:30 a.m.): March 8, 15, 22, 29, 1995.

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Egypt's NPT strategy is all politics

Egyptian and US concerns converge regarding Israel's nuclear policy, which may force a reassessment in Jerusalem, Alon Pinkas analyzes

POLITICS - not strategic concerns - may well be what's fueling current tensions between Jerusalem and Cairo over Israel's reluctance to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

But with changes in the world order, the interests of Egypt and Israel are changing, and the catalyst is their relationship with the US, the avowedly evenhanded broker in the Middle East.

Israel's long-standing reasons for refusing to sign the NPT have been expounded in many sessions of the multilateral Arms Control and Regional Security talks. Any talk of nonconventional weapons, Israel maintains, must be preceded by bilateral peace agreements with all the countries of the region.

In the context of arms control, Israel's definition of the Middle East stretches from Mauritania to Iran; the IDF Intelligence Branch includes Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres yesterday presented Egypt with Israel's view that the region can

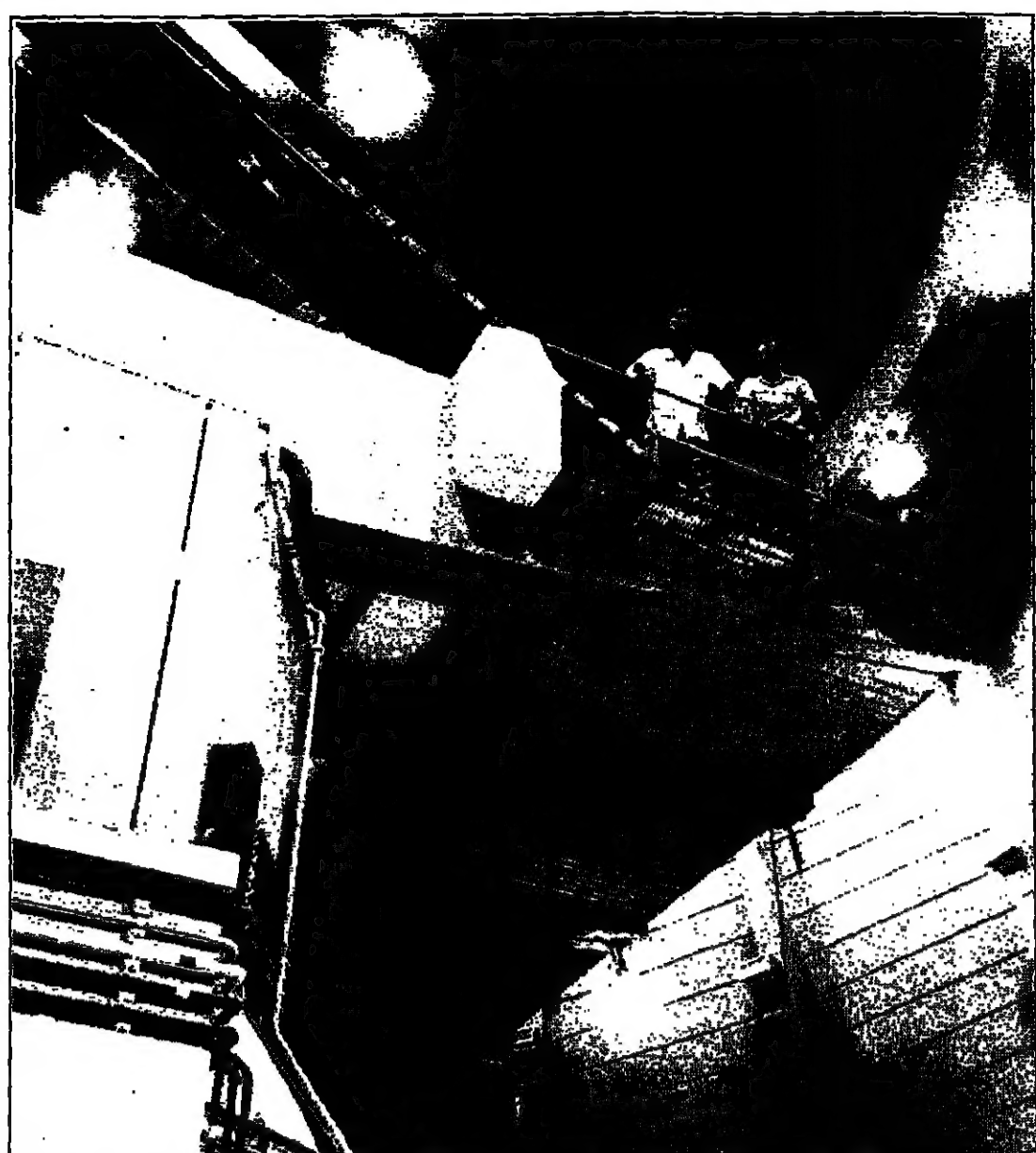
be made nuclear-free two years after the conclusion of separate peace agreements. This is a departure from the previous policy prompted by international and regional changes.

Israel's previously uncompromising posture has been cracked by Egypt and no longer looks sustainable. But the political results are unclear and may not benefit either side.

Governments since the mid-1960s have used the same line to denote the country's nuclear policy: "Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East." There was a time when that deliberately vague line was one of the few permanent features of regional politics.

By avoiding the issue, Israel not only concealed the facts, but prevented serious debate about the regional impact of nuclear strategy.

The policy was so vague that it allowed several interpretations: that Israeli has nuclear capability; that it does not have nuclear



The offer to allow Egyptian inspection of the Nablus Sorek nuclear facility was 'insulting,' says an MIT researcher, because the International Atomic Energy Agency inspects it. (David Rubinger)

weapons but may be able to produce or procure them; or that it does not have, and may not be able to get, atomic weapons. It also left in doubt the precise meaning of "introduce."

The perception in the Arab world that Israel possesses nuclear

weapons has been enough of a deterrent. Israel supposedly would contemplate their use only if on the verge of total military collapse and physical annihilation.

However, this obscurity has served everybody's interests: the

Arab world's and the superpowers', as well as Israel's. By maintaining vagueness over its nuclear power, Israel never posed a direct threat to the Arab world.

However, an explicit Israeli declaration that "We have nuclear weapons" would lead the Arab

world to consolidate its position against the threat and would require Israel to define the threshold for use, narrowing its room for strategic maneuvering.

Also, vagueness allowed Israel to maintain good patron-client relations with the US during the era of superpower struggle without impeding the US to take a position on the issue. A declaration of nuclear capabilities would have complicated Israel's relations with Congress, which is ostensibly committed to global arms control.

The Middle East peace process and the disintegration of the Soviet Union seem to make the policy inapplicable.

Egypt, with its persistent demands that Israel join the 169 signatories to NPT as its renewal approaches, wants Jerusalem to reassess its nuclear policy.

Egypt is out to change the rules of the game, says Prof. Avner Cohen, a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who specializes in Israel's nuclear doctrine. He proposed that Israel take a hard look at its policy and evaluate its contemporary relevance. He is not calling for an open declaration of nuclear capability, but warns that changes in the region warrant at least a review.

"Since the Gulf war, the Egyptians have been signaling that the old rules of the game are no longer applicable," Cohen said. "The NPT is part of a normative world order, which, even if it lacks coercive powers and is flawed, is superior to complete anarchy."

He emphasizes that even if Israel cannot allow itself to sign the NPT, which it shouldn't at this point, it must be willing to engage in a constructive dialogue with Egypt on the issue.

"The NPT benefits Israel despite the fact that it cannot sign it as a nonnuclear state. Allowing the Egyptians to inspect the Nablus Sorek nuclear facility is insulting, because it is already subject to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency," he said in an unusually open seminar

held this week at Yad Tabenkin. That still leaves unresolved the issue of Egypt's interests in pushing the issue to the top of the agenda.

Ha'aretz military affairs commentator Ze'ev Schiff said at the seminar that by pressing on the nuclear issue, Egypt's objective is to slow down the normalization process between Israel and the Arab world.

"Willingly or not, as a result of the peace process, Israel has been sucked into Arab politics," Schiff observed. "It signed a peace agreement with Jordan and is forging ties with Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Qatar and other countries. Egypt is fearful that its hegemony is threatened, so it is deliberately overburdening the peace process with the nuclear issue."

In addition, Schiff asserts, Egypt aspires to nullify Israel's qualitative edge in weapons systems, its only strategic advantage. This observation goes to the heart of the issue as far as Israel is concerned. Does the peace process require a reassessment and change in Israel's national security policy, and should the nuclear issue be part of a new equation?

However, Cairo would not necessarily benefit if it forced Israel to adopt an explicit nuclear policy, since that would inevitably lead to militant tendencies in the Arab world.

Egypt could, however, be implicitly serving US interests by raising the nuclear issue. Egypt's greatest fear is a nuclear Iran and Iraq, an apprehension shared by the US. But Egypt cannot say so publicly, and the US does not want to pressure Israel but will be perceived as biased if it less Israel off the NPT hook. So Egypt is serving as Washington's proxy.

There is a common interest in preventing the Middle East from "going nuclear," Israeli officials now realize, because the stability inherent in the Cold War-era nuclear balance cannot be replicated in the region. This realization may ultimately convince Israel to reassess its nuclear policy.

Both sides are sticking to (part of) the Oslo agreement

AT their Erez junction meeting some six weeks ago, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat discussed stamps and passports.

Peres said the stamps and passports the Palestinians had printed were in violation of the May 4 Gaza-Jericho accord. According to the agreement, each had specifications, including the extent of nationalist content, that had to meet Israeli approval before printing.

As a senior Israeli official recalled, the problem was that Arafat already had a big batch of passports printed in Germany without even asking Israel.

Arafat offered a deal. He would redo the stamp if Israel turned a blind eye to the passport. Peres agreed.

Both Israelis and Palestinians have complaints about violations committed by the other. The Is-

raeli complaints were categorized in a recently leaked classified document by the IDF Advocate-General's Office.

Over time, as in the case of the stamps, each side is prioritizing its complaints in a bid to have its views heard loud and clear. Whether this should be the case or not is a different question.

It is already obvious that Israel prioritizes complaints about Palestinian performance in the security area over those in the declarative sphere, such as whether officials use stationery with the words Palestinian National Authority (PNA) instead of Palestinian Authority (PA).

More interesting is the prioritization in the security area itself. While Israel publicly does not differentiate when it insists on Palestinian adherence, in practice this does appear to be the case.

Sources mention two areas that seem to be more relegated to lip-

service - disarming Hamas of its weapons and pressing the PA to extradite those suspected of killing Israelis within the Green Line.

While, according to the 186-page May 4 agreement, the only nonofficial Palestinians allowed to possess weapons are those with an official license, in practice this is not the case.

However, while there is hope that Arafat will indeed strip Hamas of its guns in the future, there currently is little expectation he will get into a full-fledged confrontation with them, since he believes their support is too broad.

Ghassan Khatib, a former Palestinian negotiator, puts it differently. "The authority is trying to prevent activities of Hamas, but it is not able to do so completely.... This is something Israel was unable to do, so why should the authority be expected to do it?"

There is also no expectation that, when it comes to extradition, Arafat will be any more forthcoming, because this could depict him in the Palestinian public eye as a collaborator.

Israeli officials do not press this issue. Peacewatch director Dan Polisar says Israel has made four extradition requests about killings since Oslo, none of which has been answered. A fifth request, regarding a killing that took place six months before Oslo, was turned down by the PA.

At the same time, Israel insists that Palestinians who commit crimes stand trial and are punished for their deeds. So far, no Palestinian has stood trial, and the PA approach has been more like that of the policeman in the movie *Casablanca* who yells, "Round up the usual suspects."

Facing Israeli, US and Egyptian pressure, the PA has just set

up a military tribunal and appointed military judges to try suspects.

However, no less important than deterrence is prevention. Peres said last week that the PA has foiled six attacks against Israel recently, apparently referring to planned suicide attacks. Although it remains unclear if that number is correct, foiling attacks is obviously of the utmost importance to Israel.

A senior Israeli security official says the issue is one of not capability.

"The Palestinians have seven times the number of security personnel the General Security Service ever had in Gaza," he says. "They have the capability. The question is the will. We don't expect 100% success, but there should be 100% effort. Until recently, there was zero effort. Now there is 5% effort."

Another cause of concern has been the nature of the Palestinian security services. According to the May 4 accord, the PA is supposed to have 9,000 members. Israeli and Palestinian officials say the number is actually 16,000, and the increase was introduced unilaterally.

An Israeli participant recalls how Arafat dealt with Israeli queries about how he could do such a thing.

"Arafat tells us: 'I bring these boys off the street to work for me. If I did not pay them to be on my side, they would end up going to Hamas.'"

Israeli officials may agree with Arafat's logic but still want any amendments to be mutually agreed upon.

Foreign Ministry legal adviser Joel Singer, a leading negotiator of the Oslo agreement but nonetheless someone who believes that Palestinians should not be allowed to get away with violations, says: "If you don't stand by an agreement, who would honor one? What then is the purpose of even holding negotiations?"

Another issue of equal concern is that Israel has to know the names of the Palestinian policemen/security officials. According to the agreement, the list must be approved by Israel, in an attempt



Ghassan Khatib: Collective punishment constitutes a violation. (Israel Harel)

to ensure that no people with serious terror backgrounds filter into the ranks.

While Israel received the names of the 7,000 policemen from abroad, only now is it beginning to get the list of the estimated 9,000 others. These are local Palestinians, the ones who would be most likely to have Hamas connections.

Another alleged violation that bothers Israel concerns the status of Jerusalem. Officials admit it could be that several PA offices exist inside the city in contravention of the accord and a recent Israeli law on this issue. The Israeli Police are now investigating this.

Israeli officials who insist on anonymity are convinced that part of the problem is Arafat himself, and the problems he has in making the transition from a revolutionary to a nation-builder.

"Neither Arafat nor Rabin has read this whole agreement," an official said. "The difference is that Rabin has people around him who are not afraid to tell him that something is impermissible. On the other hand, one sees aides of Arafat telling him that he cannot do something under the terms of the agreement and he gets angry. 'Quiet, don't tell me that, he'll snap. One time, he forgets that his opening negotiating position was not accepted and a compromise was reached last May; but he forgot that he conceded his original point.'"

However, the Israelis are certainly not the only ones with charges of violations. If anything, Palestinians say their complaints are even more serious because part of their problem is enforcing their will on Hamas, while Rabin

heads a government that make its own decisions.

Khatib focuses on what Palestinians deem to be major violations, issues which people from Arafat on down blame on Israel. Khatib declares: "There is a delay of elections for eight months. Israel also wants to change the issue of (IDF) redeployment [away from Palestinian population centers] to modified and limited redeployment."

He also notes that safe passage access between Gaza and Jericho has not begun, as called for in the Oslo accord. Furthermore, he charged that settlement activities in the territories and construction in Jerusalem only prejudice final status talks on both issues.

Finally, he complains that the closure also constitutes a violation, as well as collective punishment.

Ghathib says other complaints exist, but he insists - like other Palestinians - on focusing on the main issues.

Asked about Palestinian complaints, a senior Israeli official replies: "I would agree that the situation between us and the Palestinians is not black and white. However, I would argue strongly that there is a difference between very dark gray and very light gray."

"The Palestinians say elections and redeployment would have been expedited if Israel accepted all its positions. But I could just as easily say the reverse, that we would have had an agreement if they accepted our proposals."

It should be pointed out that the duration of negotiations is not only a result of the other side's positions. Rabin has essentially linked progress at the table to the PA's measures against Islamic militants. Security is also the reason Israelis cite when the delay in inaugurating "safe passage" is brought up.

The Beit Lid bombings also blew up plans to open the access road, officials say.

Israel also takes actions that may seem to violate the Oslo spirit, but do not actually violate the letter of the accord. It is not coincidental that there is no mention of a settlement freeze in Oslo, as Israel turned down such demands during the course of negotiations, as it did when the issue was Jerusalem construction.

Annex One, Article VII of the May 4 agreement even gives Israel the right to "close off the territories."

Pointing out violations to the other side has meant improvement, at times, especially when the issues are technical.

For example, when Gaza-Jericho first began, Palestinian policemen arriving straight from places like Yemen were thrown directly into their brief without ever having read the May 4 agreement, a senior official says. "Many of them did not know their responsibilities toward Israel. After the agreement was disseminated to everyone in Arabic, most of these problems were resolved."

Inside & Outside
Central European Jewry:
Borderlines & Interactions

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In these times you cannot
AFFORD to be without
THE JERUSALEM POST

A Peace Corps message of hate The Mexican connection

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kollek

WORLDVIEW, an American quarterly published by The National Peace Corps Association, is read by "key teachers, students and politicians who believe the Peace Corps is apolitical, morally correct and truthful," according to reader Janet Gross of Brattleboro, Vermont, who sent me the current issue (December 1994-February 1995).

The magazine does feature an article by Ambassador Robert Oakley, a diplomat and African expert of some distinction. But it's difficult to imagine "key people" reading this often semiliterate, propagandistic publication. Its contents and language are closer to those of UN-sponsored PLO publications and regime-sanctioned Third World journals than to what one expects of the free world press.

A "WorldView" column, for example, reports news in brief from various countries, including a state by the name of Palestine. But this is a minor transgression compared to an article named "Occupied in Bethlehem" by Stephen Gasteyer, a UN-sponsored technical adviser in the Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem.

The article contains at least one truthful statement: "cellular phones are growing increasingly common among Palestinians."

And there is a barely lathornable sentence which probably contains some truth: "Another source of material wealth for some Palestinians has been the lessons learned by living next door to Israel, which considers itself to be an industrialized country." But the falsehoods, fabrications and fantasies, let alone tendentious omissions, are numberless.

According to Gasteyer, the laws the Israeli occupation has imposed on the Palestinians are cruel, oppressive and mostly irrational. They include, for instance, a prohibition on growing the "Palestinian national herb," za'atar, and a law against the excavation of "sites of Palestinian heritage."

The facts are slightly different. In their brutal disregard for natural flora, the Arabs of Palestine had destroyed the wild za'atar almost completely. To save it, the Israeli authorities prohibited the picking of the plant in the wild. It was a sound environmental and economic move, designed to help the Arab inhabitants. Growing za'atar in one's own backyard was not only allowed but encouraged.

Archaeological excavations are, of course, as regulated as they are in any civilized country. Not everyone can dig for antiquities. But the meticulous care with which Israeli archaeology

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

has preserved different cultural heritages is second to none. There is hardly anything that can be called "Palestinian heritage," unless one insults history and science and claims — as some Arabs already do — that such Hebrew treasures as the Dead Sea Scrolls are "Palestinian." The only archaeological laws some Palestinian Arabs may truly resent are statutes against robbing and looting excavations. For some villagers the sale of such loot is a primary source of income.

But these falsehoods are just teasers. The main thrust of the article is the harm Israel has done to Palestinian farmers. Playing on environmentalist phobias and relying on his readers' infinite gullibility, he describes the primordial paradise of Palestinian farmers before Israel's "occupation": "Palestinian agriculture has developed slowly and continuously, performed by traditional means without chemicals, machines, or well-adapted improvements on local varieties from the 1300s until the 20th century."

All the pre-Israel occupiers, says Gasteyer, were benign. "The Turks did not interfere... the British didn't try to manipulate Palestinian farming practices... Jordan developed this part of Palestine as the breadbasket of the Hashemite Kingdom... But with the Israeli occupation in 1967, farming changed... Palestinians were being drawn off the farmlands to meet the growing need for laborers in Israel's growing industries... [The Israelis promoted] chemical fertilizers from the growing Israeli chemical industry."

"Once the Palestinian farmers were dependent upon the Israeli chemicals, information was restricted, agents encouraged farmers to increase the use of these chemicals, some of which had been banned for domestic use by Israel... Agricultural products from the West Bank could not legally be sold in Israel and could be exported to other countries only through Israeli dealers..."

The truth is that chemicals and modern methods have revolutionized agriculture in the territories and made it pay handsomely. Working in Israel is even more lucrative, which is why many Palestinians have indeed left agriculture.

At one time, Israel tried to protect its farmers from cheaper produce from the territories and, like every other country, established quotas for produce entering the Green Line. They were mostly ignored. Now no such quotas exist. Prod-

ucts from the territories are sold both in Israel (to the detriment of Israeli agriculture) and abroad (directly, not through Israeli dealers). At no time in history have Palestinian farmers had it so good.

If these fabricated charges seem familiar, it is because they are identical to those featured in the PBS TV program *A Journey to the Occupied Lands* (Eye on the Media, August 12, 1994). Strangely, neither Gasteyer nor PBS seems to consider it peculiar that Israelis would encourage the use of dangerous chemicals on products they themselves consume.

To make the litany complete, Gasteyer brings in "a field worker named Jamil" who "talked about the Israeli soldiers who came to his brother's front door, ordered he [sic] and his family out of their home in which they had lived for several years, and demolished it because his brother had never obtained a building permit." Although demolishing unlicensed buildings is a government prerogative, only a handful of homes (out of the thousands built illegally) have been demolished for want of a permit. Some of these were owned by Jews.

If the article seems anachronistic, it is because it recalls leftist propaganda about the colonial exploitation of the native masses. Like an apparition of the old school, Gasteyer describes Israeli policies as "an Israeli conspiracy against the very existence and well-being of the Palestinian people."

It makes one wonder if this peace-corps volunteer (who also served in Mali from 1987 to 1990) is a throwback leftist ideologue, or just a hopelessly glib, well-intentioned youth so brainwashed by his Palestinian hosts that he is afraid to seek easily available information.

Had he sought facts, he would have discovered that before the Zionist era, Palestinian agriculture was so primitive that the country could never sustain more than 200,000 people. Life expectancy before Israeli rule was under 50. Under the Jordanians, one third of the Judea-Samaria population and half of Jerusalem's Arabs left the country. There were no schools of higher learning and no industry, nor were there hundreds of sumptuous Arab villas, many of which he can see on his daily trips from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.

Israel has transformed a poverty-stricken, disease-ridden, backward population into a thriving, industrious, educated, computerized, agriculturally sophisticated, immigration-drawing, television-owning society. It is a crime for which Israel will never be forgiven.

importance was such that the Chief Rabbinate agreed that the fuel be unloaded and transferred to the few planes at our disposal, even though it was Yom Kippur.

I REPAID the loan on time with money raised in the US. Since then, my credibility with the Mexican Jewish community, and friendship with some remarkable individuals, has only grown. Souraski later opened a branch of his mortgage bank in Israel. He helped build the state in many other ways, not least in contributing a major part of Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv.

Many others supported Jerusalem. For example, the beautiful community center in Neveh Ya'acov was recently built by Leon Davidoff and Max Shein.

I still remember the day when a brilliant architect, the late Mathias Goeritz, produced the first model of a community center in Jerusalem. We were searching for the funds to build it when a young man, Alexander Saltiel, stood up at a meeting and offered the million dollars needed.

At that time, this was a tremendous figure. Since then he and his wife Lily have been extremely active, and the community center is an outstanding architectural monument.

And how could I not mention many others, including Sam Kurian, the Zabludovskys, the Trotter family... I could go on and on...

Jaime Constantiner recently went through the papers left by Souraski, and during my recent visit he gave me copies of early correspondence with me. Some of the letters were written in 1948 on stationery of the provisional government of Israel.

The trip to Mexico brought to mind the thought that Israel's relationship with world Jewry at different times and in different situations is strong and ongoing. When we need the Jews of the world, they come through. We are part of them and they are part of us. It is a fact that should not be overlooked or underestimated.

Recently we have heard voices in Israel saying that we do not need the Diaspora, or its money, and that Israel is a strong, independent entity.

Ben-Gurion once said he considered himself a Jew first and an Israeli second. I believe that this applies to every one of us, and is the foremost source of our strength.

Peres the choirmaster

VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

EARLY last week, Yitzhak and Leah Rabin invited the cabinet ministers and their spouses to dinner in their Jerusalem residence.

Among the things that reportedly came to pass was a singalong of Eretz Yisrael "golden oldies" conducted by Shimon Peres. One of the songs in which he reportedly led the group was that Naomi Shemer favorite, "Al Kol Eleh."

The eight-stanza song is a supplication to "my good God" to protect "the honey and the sting, the bitter and the sweet..."

The lyricist further prays: "Protect, God of mine, this house/The garden and the wall/Against grief and... war..."

"...Protect the little I possess/The light and children too..."

"Please protect all these for me/Also all the ones I love/The silence and the weeping/And this song."

The song's title, "Al Kol Eleh," comes from the first line of the two-stanza refrain. The first stanza reads:

"All of these, all of this/Protect, I pray You, my good God-/The honey and the sting/The bitter and the sweet."

I wonder which member of our Labor/Meretz ministerial family suggested this song. I also wonder whether, as they were singing it, they were fully aware of the connotations of the words in this time of the unilateral-concession policy they are so ardently pursuing with the PLO.

I wonder, too, whether they remembered the period when the song became for many of us a dirge over a tragic event rather than a prayer for tranquility.

I refer to spring-summer 1982. That was when the Begin-led government vacated and demolished Yamit so Egypt might get "every last grain" of Sinai sand, as Anwar Sadat had demanded. Menachem Begin evidently believed that the Arabs accepted his "understanding" that our surrender of Sinai left us unchallenged in Judea/Samaria.

"Al Kol Eleh," originally sung as a prayer, finally served as a sort of elegy for Yamit, chiefly, perhaps, because of the refrain's second stanza:

"Do not, I pray, uproot what's

planted./Do not forget the hope./Restore me and I'll return/To the goodly Land."

Shemer wrote the song before the Yamit tragedy. But just as her "Jerusalem of Gold," which captured the nation's heart the moment it was sung on Independence Day 1967, three weeks before the Six Day War, proved to be a kind of prophecy of redemption, "Al Kol Eleh" turned out to be a prophecy of surrender.

(The translation of the "Al Kol Eleh" passages is mine.)

SHIMON PERES awoke one night from a deep dream of peace. In that dream he saw an azure sky over our "Semitic expanse" marked only by virgin white wisps spelling the words "New Middle East." Ever since he has been in a deep state of eunetrophrenia (ERP), a peaceful state of mind brought on by a pleasant dream (Paul Helliwell's *Book of Inquiring Words*).

That state has since prevailed almost uninterruptedly in Peres's handling of the Oslo unilateral-concession process.

It seems that only questioning by fellow Jews ruffles his ERP.

We know how he told Ruth Matar, organizer and co-chairman of Women for Israel's Tomorrow, to "Go back where you came from" when he detected the American accent in her Hebrew in a brief exchange they had in December 1993.

He never apologized for that racist remark. At the time his spokeswoman, Bahira Bardugo, told me he would apologize only after Matar apologized (for a remark she says she never made).

Shortly afterwards Bardugo told a correspondent, Bruce Brill of Tekoa, that (in Brill's paraphrase) "although [Peres] regretted making the remark, he prefers not to make an apology that would attract unwarranted public attention to the incident."

A similar incident in the US would promptly have set off an uproar and brought about an abject apology from the guilty official and/or his resignation, or his

dismissal by the president. Here the incident passed virtually unnoticed by the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel or anyone else.

PERES HAS somewhat similarly avoided giving an unequivocal reply to a request from the Jewish War Veterans of America that he apologize for equating "the two holocausts — the Jewish holocaust and the Japanese holocaust [the atom-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki]," in a speech in New York last May.

In September Shlomo Gur, deputy chief of mission at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, sent the JWV national commander the text of a cable from Peres:

"In my remarks I quoted an author who stated that nuclear weapons represent a threat to mankind. No Jew, indeed no right-minded individual, can even entertain the thought that two such totally different issues as the Holocaust against the Jews and the events in Hiroshima can be compared to each other..."

This and several other "explanations" sent in Peres's name have not satisfied the JWV, which demands "a formal apology... to the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust and to the hundreds of thousands of American Gentiles and Jews [who] died fighting the Japanese in the war to secure world freedom."

Bardugo's assistant has just told me that Peres stands by the statement conveyed by Gur. She added: "We're sorry if the JWV doesn't understand the spirit" of Peres's statement.

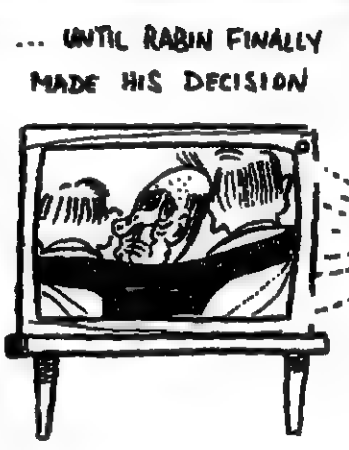
(I thank Gerald Katz of Haifa, a JWV member, for bringing the matter to my attention.)

PERES RECENTLY told a journalist: "I don't regret Oslo and I'm not about to deliver a requiem over it..." (*Yedioth Aharonot*, February 14.)

Let us pray, however, that Oslo will be buried in time for us to prepare for the next Arab armed assault, which will come regardless of what we do or do not concede under Oslo.

When that happens, I pray we will amend the mistakes we have made by our leaning-over-backwards posture.

SRULIK



The importance of 'making a life'

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RUSKIN

"Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day shall be to you a holy day..." (Exodus 35:2)

WHEN it comes to gathering scientific data, a single tiny mistake could render an entire experiment useless.

All the more so with Torah. If but one letter is missing, an entire Torah scroll is invalid. But it's not only letters that matter. When the chazan reads from the scroll each Shabbat, a mistake in the punctuation or vocalization will necessitate a repetition of the word, or even the entire verse.

What adds to the chazan's achievement is the fact that the Torah scroll has neither periods, commas, quotation marks, nor even vowels. We rely on the mesora — the accepted transmission of the correct reading. One example of how the slightest change affects not only the meaning of the words, but our very understanding of Shabbat, appears right at the beginning of this week's portion of *Vayakhel*.

The Hebrew text of the verse quoted above would usually read: *Sheshet yamim* (six days) *ta'aseh* (you shall do) *melacha* (work). But mesora has us read *ta'aseh* (shall be done), the passive form of the verb, rather than the active *ta'aseh*.

What appears to be a minor difference may be the reason for a major controversy in the Mish-

na between the academies of Shammai and Hillel on whether a "Shabbat clock" is permitted:

"Beit Shammai says we do not soak ink or dyes [on Friday] unless there is sufficient time for them to become completely soaked while it is yet day. Beit Hillel permits it."

The underlying principle touches on a tool which many observant families consider essential — the Shabbat clock. Jewish law prohibits operating electrical devices on the Shabbat, based on the biblical admonition: "Thou shalt not kindle a fire [or cause heat or light, according to most interpretations] on the Shabbat day." (Ex. 35:3) But would I be permitted to set up an electrical timer on Friday afternoon which would cause the lights to go on and off at previously designated times during Shabbat?

Beit Shammai would say no. Even though no human hand actually turns on the light, since a human set the mechanical process in motion, that's enough reason to forbid it. But Beit Hillel, which permits initiating an act before the Shabbat as long as no human activity is involved on the Shabbat itself, would permit the Shabbat clock.

The school founded by Rav Haim of Brisk explains the difference between Beit Shammai and Beit Hillel in terms of the nature of Shabbat rest: does the law enjoin the person or the object? Beit Hillel would argue that it is the individual who must rest. If a person sets into motion on Friday an action which will not involve his violating the Shabbat, it is permitted.

However, according to Beit Shammai, the prohibition falls not only on the person, but also on the object; it too must rest. Therefore, it's not just we Jews who are forbidden to perform creative activity on the Shabbat; our objects must refrain from creative activity as well. That's why Beit Shammai forbids placing wool into a vat on Friday. Even though the person does not do the physical work himself, it's enough that he set in motion the forbidden transformation of the object on the Shabbat.

Now, Beit Shammai could very well turn to the reading of our biblical text to support its position. After all, the mesora insists that the proper reading is "Six days shall your work be done" in the passive form; you may not even set a forbidden creative activity into motion so that it takes

place on the Shabbat. But how then do we decide the law in accordance with Beit Hillel?

According to Rabbi Shlomo Ganzfried in *Ashkenaz*, the passive form of the verb must be understood as a divine guarantee. In most major cities in the western world, Saturday is the busiest shopping day of the week, and all too often a person thinks that only if his business remains open on the Shabbat will he succeed. Hence the Torah is informing us not to be concerned about our physical sustenance. God promises that in six days our work shall be done, and we will be able to support our families without desecrating the Shabbat.

Moreover, the verse in the passive form is not a guarantee as much as it is a Divine injunction on how a Jew ought to order his life. The Almighty is teaching us to see it that all our physical creativity be done within six days, so that we can devote the seventh to more uniquely human concerns. Only if our work is done within the six weekdays will we have the requisite Shabbat to give to our soul, our family, our community and our God.

A hassidic sage once saw a man running very quickly. "Reb Yid," he exclaimed, "where are you going?" "I'm running to make a living," he gasped, out of breath. "Stop, and perhaps you'll make a life," advised the rabbi.

Shabbat Shalom

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Give the man a hand

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

Contest Winner
East dealer
Both sides vulnerable
Fourth deal, Chicago

North
♠ AK2
♥ KQ8
♦ AK732
♣ 82

West (Dreyfus)
♠ 109863
♥ 765
♦ QJ8
♣ K3

East
♠ QJ75
♥ A1093
♦ 104
♣ J97

South (Lavine)
♠ 4
♥ J42
♦ 965
♣ AQ10654

West North East South
pass 1♦ pass INT
2NT pass 3NT

Opening lead: 10

THE winner of the Bridge Today Great Hands Contest was selected last week. The contest offered a \$100 prize to the subscriber of Bridge Today magazine who entered the most interesting hand of the year.

Herb Lavine of Westfield, New Jersey, was the winner with this deal from a rubber bridge game in which he scored three notrump against a fine play by Jack Dreyfus.

Dreyfus is a well-known figure in financial circles as the founder of the Dreyfus Fund and for the last two decades has headed the Dreyfus Medical Foundation.

In his spare time, Dreyfus plays rubber bridge, and this deal showed him to be a brilliant defender. However, he met his match with contest winner Lavine, who sat South and read the hand perfectly.

The clue to the hand was the declarer's knowledge of the players: Dreyfus was known to be a clever defender and the East player had a reputation for aggressive bidding.

After three passes, Lavine's partner, North, opened one diamond. East passed and Lavine responded one notrump. This was not the best call technically,

but Lavine did not want to raise to two diamonds with only three small trumps and he did not wish to show 10 points by bidding two clubs.

When North raised to two notrump, Lavine bid three, hoping his club suit would provide the necessary winners.

Dreyfus led the 10 of spades. Lavine won with the ace in dummy. East playing the queen, and led a club to the 10, which held. Dreyfus ducked the 10 of clubs nonchalantly, playing the three. This duck was vital. If Dreyfus had taken the king, declarer would have nine easy tricks: two spades, two diamonds and five clubs.

Lavine now led a diamond to Dreyfus's queen and dummy's ace. The king of hearts was led, East winning the ace.

East continued partner's suit with a low spade and when declarer ducked, spades were continued as East threw the jack of spades under the king.

Declarer cashed two rounds of hearts and the king of diamonds. Needing two more tricks, he led a club toward the South hand, which still held the ace and queen. When East followed low, declarer had to decide whether to finesse.

Lavine thought back to the bidding and found a clue: East had passed over North's fourth-seat one-diamond opening. If East held the king-jack of clubs and the same hand, wouldn't he have made a takeout double?

On this reasoning, Lavine assumed East could not hold the king of clubs, so he went up with the ace and caught Dreyfus's now singleton king.

The queen of clubs was the ninth trick and declarer claimed his contract.

Runners-up in the contest were Nikolas Bausback of Wuppertal, Germany, and Sam-Arne Lindstedt of Eslov, Sweden. Each of these contestants received a package of bridge books.

In the spring, a new contest is starting called the Bridge Today Ruffel Rabbit Contest, in which entries must be interesting hands in which the key bid or play was made by accident.



Birds seek shelter anywhere they can.

(David Rubinger)

Instinct for survival

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAIL

WHEN the weather is continuously cold and rainy, birds in the area are forced to rely on their most basic instinct - survival.

This survival instinct boils down to three basics - finding shelter from the wind and cold, staying as dry as possible and securing enough food to stoke their rapid metabolism.

If there is a choice between seeking shelter from the rain or wind, most birds will find respite from the wind, since the wind-chill factor pushes the temperature significantly lower.

Birds will seek shelter from the wind and rain any place they can - eaves of houses, abandoned buildings, walls and even hedges.

A severe winter storm turns the abandoned barn on a neighbor's property into a well populated aviary. Many birds manage to find shelter in small nooks under eaves and even clefts in stony walls and ridges.

Some birds, blackbirds for instance, go to the ground for protection and can most often be found under shrubs and trees.

In one neighborhood where I lived in Jerusalem the entire blackbird population preferred an old privet hedge that was overgrown with vines and creepers. The hedge created a canopy where little wind or rain penetrated.

As protection against cold, birds elevate their feathers somewhat in a manner that resembles the "goose-bumps" that humans have when we are cold.

With the outer layer of feathers tightly packed and to some degree water-resistant and the underlayer of downy feathers puffed out, the bird is actually enclosed in an envelope of air

warmed by its own body heat.

But to survive a cold spell, birds must have food. In proportion to their size, birds eat heartily because their metabolism is faster than mammals - with the exception of small insect-eating mammals such as shrews.

To have enough energy to hunt for food when there are short periods when the rain stops and at the same time generate the heat that keeps them from freezing, they must have a food supply.

This is harder for insect eaters because in cold, wet weather the insects are also seeking shelter and are often dormant. Seed and vegetable eaters are a bit better, but they have to find food without getting drenched among wet leaves.

One sees them collecting seeds from the tops of still-standing thistles, or - in the case of the local bulbuls - having a feast on the flowers and leaves in my window boxes.

The talent spotter

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

A number of years ago, Leonard Barden, the chess columnist of the British newspaper *The Guardian*, predicted that a little boy called Gata Kamsky was a future world champion. As Kamsky recently slaughtered a player as strong as Valery Salov, it appears more likely than ever that he will be proved right.

Barden had also predicted that a little boy called Gary Weinstein would one day claim the throne. Weinstein was the name of Kasparov's father; after his father died, Gary adopted his mother's maiden name for political reasons.

Barden indeed has remarkable talent-spotting capabilities. He predicted future greatness for both Michael Adams and Nigel Short. His latest find is 10-year-old Luke McShane. Is McShane a prospective world champion? It depends very much on the chess environment in which he grows up, and I have my doubts about England in this respect.

Kasparov and Kamsky both cut their teeth in the USSR, with its long chess tradition and massively strong internal competition. Westerners will always find themselves at a disadvantage in terms of their chess background.

Does any Western country have the resources to produce a champion? Maybe Israel is the number one prospect in this respect. The chess scene here is full of players from the former Soviet Union, the number of tournaments seems to be growing all the time, and some very talented young players are receiving professional coaching.

In the last Olympiad in Moscow the Israeli team was seeded seventh, and in years to come it may well be much higher.

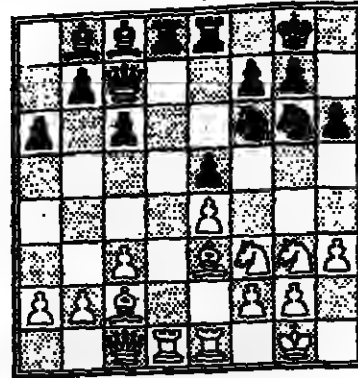
THE following game was played in the recent Cafe Apropos international master tournament.

My former pupil Alex Kravtsov provides a very impressive display of controlled positional chess followed by a brilliant combinative finale.

Kravtsov, A. - Gershtman, E.

Balkan Games

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Qc3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.Bf3 Bb6 7.Nb4 Bb7 8.Nc3 Bxg3 9.Nd4 Bg4 10.Ne5 Bf5 11.d4 Bxg3 12.Nf3 Bg4 13.Ng5 Bf5 14.Ne6 Bf6 15.Nf3 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rg8 17.Rd1 Bb6 18.Qd1 Bc5 19.dxe5 dxe5

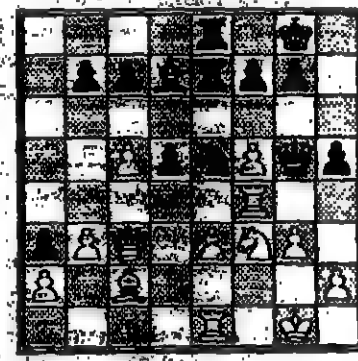


20.Bxb6!! Rxd1 21.Rxd1 gxb6 22.Qxb6 Re6 23.Ng5 Ne8 24.Rd8!! 1-0

Black is defenseless. The rook is immune to capture by Black's queen because of 25.Qh7+ followed by 26.Qxf7 mate. Meanwhile there are a multitude of threats such as 25.Nxe6 and 26.Rxe8+ or 25.Nh5 followed by 26.Qg7 mate.

READERS are reminded that entries for the Benjamin Samuel Best Game Competition should be sent to me c/o The Jerusalem Post, 5 Rehov Hamasger, Tel Aviv, POB 28398 (fax 6390277) no later than March 10. Games should be from 1994. There is a prize of NIS 400 with trophy and a junior prize of NIS 200.

THE problem this week is from round six of the Cafe Apropos grand master tournament, in which, playing Black, I found a winning combination. My opponent, grand master Avigdor Bikhovsky, was in poor form. Black to play and win (see diagram).



Solution: Black broke through with the pseudo-sacrifice of his queen: 1...Qxf7, and after 2.gxf7 Nc3+ 3.Kf2 d4! White resigned as he faced the loss of material with Black's rooks about to cause havoc.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

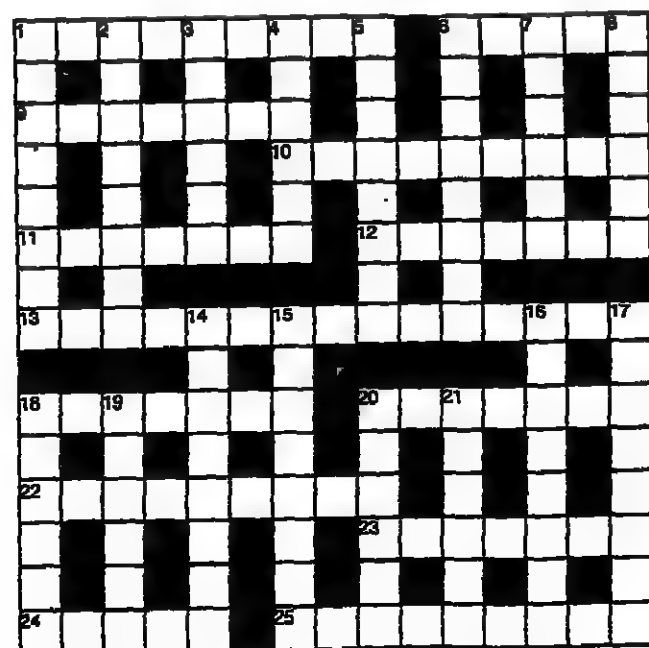
ACROSS

- 1 High-society tippler without allure (3-8)
- 6 A doctor cut mother in half - the snake! (5)
- 9 Having trouble appearing at a nightclub (2,1,4)
- 10 Casual query about a pop record's chances? (3-2-4)
- 11 Appropriate way to deal with a queue of customers (3,5)
- 12 Knock back best-quality beer with all the trappings (7)
- 13 Don a diad and get down to business (4,2,4,5)
- 18 Rex came in slightly drenched - quite obviously! (7)
- 20 Calm at being put into position (7)

- 23 Filled the place of another to be in charge of divers round about (9)
- 23 From then on biblical studies were not affected (7)
- 24 Put up before going to Connecticut (5)
- 25 Put down how assorted posts died (9)

DOWN

- 1 Reflective article about writer's material (8)
- 2 Musician filled with energy in the theatre (8)
- 3 Got one's reward when the happy turned up (6)
- 4 Decline to be in Her Majesty's company (6)
- 5 No tears if the accommodation is gratis (4-4)



SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Weight, 4 Thaw, 3 Annoy, 9 Elysium, 10 Talmud, 11 Stem, 12 Rave, 14 Kapi, 15 Asti, 16 Cow, 21 Loch, 23 Eucalypt, 25 Coconut, 26 Mafia, 27 Tumb, 28 Unleash.

DOWN: 1 Wretch, 3 Ignoble, 3 Hallucin, 4 Toys, 5 Edifice, 6 Eremite, 7 Ferner, 12 Watchman, 16 Fearful, 17 Chiche, 19 Wreck, 20 Shred, 23 Chime, 24 Gals.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Maxima (5)
- 4 Knocks down (6)
- 9 Surgical knife (7)
- 10 Spaghetti (5)
- 11 Duty-list (4)
- 12 Insanity (7)
- 13 Draw (3)
- 14 Brag (4)
- 16 Stink (4)
- 18 Ridicule (3)
- 20 Equestrian award (7)
- 21 Level (4)
- 24 Filler (5)
- 25 Captain (7)
- 26 Speculative idea (6)
- 27 Fussy about food (5)

DOWN

- 1 Wretchedness (6)
- 2 Oven-cooked joint (5)
- 3 Bound along (4)
- 5 Gem-entire (8)
- 6 Lewd (7)
- 7 Thinly scattered (6)
- 8 Consume (5)
- 13 Bird-watcher (8)
- 15 Steadfastness (7)
- 17 Gain (6)
- 18 Plaster of Paris (5)
- 19 Vigour (6)
- 22 Dull (5)
- 23 Disagreement (4)

Pleas for help come in year-round

We seem to have hit a very slack period in our fund-raising efforts. This is so frustrating when we read the letters that arrive daily pleading for help.

In some areas, many senior citizens living in squalid conditions have suffered miserably through the winter.

Roofs have leaked, walls have become damp and some homes have been flooded. The requests for help repairing the damages and for heaters and blankets are more than the Forsake Me Not Fund can handle.

Needless to say, the appeals from social workers regarding youngsters are no different. The Toy Fund has been called upon to buy clothing, shoes, beds and bedding, pay for dental and medical care and much more.

We cannot emphasize strongly enough that it doesn't make any difference when donations are sent in, since we need funds all year round.

Please lend a helping hand. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

FUNDS

BEVERLEE BLACK

FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 250 In memory of Mark Schulman - Claire Schulman, Tel Aviv.

NIS 200 For Ruth's speedy recovery - Dad.

NIS 180 In honor of the 75th birthday of Santa Rose Joshua - love from her husband, children and grandchildren.

NIS 150 In loving memory of my husband, Ezra, and my beloved parents, Chaim and Isaac Schulman - Sara Pinner, Ramat Hasharon.

NIS 120 In memory of my dear parents, Sander and Chana Haim - Rivka Glesman, Kfar Vitkin.

NIS 100 Anon., Hazzitzi, Yael and Ariel Pinner, J'm. In memory of Rav Chaim Pinner - Professor Shaul Stember, J'm.

NIS 90 In honor of our Ruby Wedding - Anon., J'm.

NIS 75 In memory of my father, Harry Rosenzweig - Dorothy Steinberg, J'm.

NIS 54 In loving memory of my father, George Schiller - Joie Hill, Ramat Hasharon.

NIS 50 Anon., J'm. In honor of Cecil and Becky of Seid on their 50th wedding anniversary - Brenda and Theo Kaplan, Haifa.

NIS 20 Anon., Haifa.

NIS 10 Rachel Frankel, Holon.

NIS 4 Anon., Ramat Hasharon, CA.

NIS 250 To celebrate the marriage of Ellen Gail Steiner and Paul Michael Kassin - Shosh and Hank Skirball, J'm.

NIS 150 In honor of Richard Katz, Boca Raton, FL.

New Donations

NIS 1,549

NIS 300.00

NIS 319

NIS 600

NIS 1,000

NIS 2,000

NIS 50

TOY FUND

NIS 315 In loving memory of my dear husband, Carpel Adin, on the second anniversary of his death - from his loving wife, Chana, Tel Aviv.

NIS 250 In memory of Mark Schulman - Claire Schulman, Tel Aviv.

NIS 180 In honor of the 75th birthday of Santa Rose Joshua - love from her husband, children and grandchildren.

NIS 100 In memory of my dear, dear son Elkan Schulman, who would have been 29 years old on February 26, but was killed in Gaza in the war against terrorists on May 14, 1992. The same son Elkan who when he was five years old gave the Toy Fund his first donation - Joie Schiller, Petah Tikva.

NIS 50 Anon. and Antonette Garbi, Ramat Hasharon.

NIS 40, Anon., J'm. Sander and Emilee Benet, J'm. Yael and Chana Kalinsky, Ramat Aviv.

NIS 36 In loving memory of my father, George Schiller - Joie Hill, Ramat Hasharon.

NIS 28 In honor of the birth of our grandson, Yael, the son of Melanie and Elliot Levart - Ray, and Ben Levart, Kichav Yair.

NIS 20 Esther, Nathan and Zohar Frayman, Haishmon.

NIS 15 In honor of the 50th anniversary of Menachem (Aryeh) Schulman - Shosh and Hank Skirball, J'm.

NIS 100 In honor of Richard Katz, Boca Raton, FL.

NIS 500 - Terence and Joanna Miller, Markham, Canada.

NIS 315 In memory of Justice Pinner - Elyse, Ramat Hasharon, Canada.

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Heavenly Hawaii's change of identity

TRAVEL
CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS

I knew the Hilton Hawaiian Village on Waikiki was big, but until recently, I didn't suspect it had room enough for two Hawaiis.

The most obvious of the two is the commercially packaged version that lies all around as you walk the 20-acre, 2,542-room beachfront resort on a Friday night. On those evenings, bathed in the light of its 77 gasoline-fed tiki torches, the hotel stages its "King's Jubilee" show with 10 hula dancers and a man playing the role of King David Kalakaua, the "merry monarch" of the islands who revived interest in hula and Hawaiian music in the 19th century.

After the free hour-long performance, the hotel staff explodes fireworks over the beach, and thousands of vacationers stand below and marvel at the indigo sky, the creamy sand, the commotion of the tides.

I took in a portion of that scene the night I arrived. But after a few minutes, I snuck off to the hotel's Tapa Ballroom to spend a couple of hours with the other Hawaiians are struggling to sustain.

The event was a community children's hula competition, advertised on bulletin boards within the hotel. I paid the \$10 admission and sat among several hundred locals to admire the dancing, chanting and drumming of 18 hula schools, known as "halau," and the "kumu" (teachers) who lead them.

The annual Hula Oni E Keiki Hula Festival was created three years ago.

In the front row sat a line of impassive judges. And before them proceeded scores of nervous "keiki" (children) - some of whom had studied hula for eight years and were just entering their teens.

As 13-year-old Jessica Kamalani Bond prepared to take her solo, the master of ceremonies read a few details from her biography.

"When she grows up," he said, "she would like to be a computer technician and professional hula dancer."

THAT NIGHT, and for the next six days on Oahu, Kauai and Maui, I found two distinct trends at work: Hawaiians are exploring and celebrating their native culture with more enthusiasm than they have in perhaps a century, and the Hawaiian tourism industry is putting new emphasis into replicating and advertising the most visitor-friendly elements of that culture.

If you're a strictly sun-sand-surf traveler, you're likely to notice small things here and there, many of them merely cosmetic: fewer plastic leis at the hotels, more Hawaiian-made products in gift shops, more taro dishes on menus.

An "essence of Hawaii" promotional campaign, devised last year, highlights historical aspects of each site. On the two ships of American Hawaii Cruises, passengers now find that the crew includes a traditional Hawaiian



Two of Hawaii's many faces: (left) a cowgirl gives a Hawaiian style welcome; a traditional hula dancer at the Kauai festival.

storyteller.

Last month on the big island of Hawaii, the Kona Village Resort threw a birthday party for 83-year-old Imgard Aluli, one of the state's most prolific Hawaiian songwriters.

Meanwhile, Molokai, for decades one of the least tourism-oriented of the islands, now sells itself to visitors as "the most Hawaiian island" of them all.

But there's more to this than marketing. Glance at a community bulletin board, chat with a resident, make an inquiring phone call to a museum or cultural group, look in one of the islands' local festivals, or perhaps merely take a closer look at your hotel lobby, and you'll probably find hints of a deeper, more rewarding - and more conflicting - Hawaii.

In fact, a stranger can easily see those 77 closely tended Hilton torch flames as a sign of the strange state of tourism and cultural politics in Hawaii these days.

Everyone, it seems, is declaring his or her eagerness to protect the flame of native Hawaiian tradition. But for every torch-bearer, there seems to be another set of presumptions and ambitions and another formula for feeding the flames.

On my second day on Oahu, I walked along the Waikiki waterfront, past stacked surfboards, crimson Texans, and two hip-looking Hawaiian teenagers gently strumming ukuleles. Enduring native culture in the shadow of crass commercialism, I thought.

But what is native? A 1989 state population study found that just 1 percent or less of the is-

lands' million-plus population was full-blooded Hawaiian, with another 18 percent classified as part-Hawaiian.

ON KAUAI, I stayed happily at the Hanalei Bay Resort, which was rich in tennis courts, immaculately landscaped, featured taro pancakes on the breakfast menu and had just reopened after belated hurricane repairs. When I had a chance, however, I headed down the hill to investigate the lavish Princeville Hotel.

That resort, on bluffs over Hanalei Bay, was renovated in 1991 into one of the most formal settings in the islands, with classical music in the lobby and employees in suits and ties. Then came Hurricane Iniki in 1992 and some hunkering on the part of the hotel's Japanese owners and its ITT Sheraton management. When the hotel reopened in October 1993 the idea was to take on a more Hawaiian profile - more aloha shirts and muumuu, less formality.

When I got there, the lobby gleamed with black and white marble, the lounge was lined with bookshelves and full of classic European furnishings, and a gold-trimmed piano from Paris stood next to the dining-room entrance. Room rates began at \$225.



The most far-flung stop on my Hawaiian itinerary was Hana, an idyllic town on Maui.

To reach Hana by car you must navigate the 80-odd narrow and winding kilometers of the Hana Highway, a journey that takes three hours or more. Driving the highway, I had that pleasant sense of trading mass commercialism for a world where coconut meat is peddled in driveways and waterfalls roar at every turn.

Reaching Hana, you find that the 66-acre Hotel Hana-Maui and the 4,700-acre Hana cattle ranch are the center of virtually everything. The hotel was built, with 10 rooms and a different name, in 1946, when ranch owner and mainland businessman Paul Fagan imported his minor league baseball team, the San Francisco Seals, to spend their spring training in Hana. Sportswriters followed, as Fagan knew they would. One of them labeled the place "Heavenly Hana," and the exclusive resort was off and running.

Ownership has changed since then - the management is now the Sheraton - and a \$24 million renovation in 1989 pushed the size of the hotel up to 96 rooms and suites, many dressed up with hardwood floors, skylights and blankets of merino wool, woven in England.

Over decades, with encouragement from hotel employees and rental car companies, Hana has become known as the site of "The Seven Sacred Pools."

This is despite the fact that original Hawaiians aren't known to have had any particular beliefs or superstitions associated with Ohia Pools or any of the other streams in the area, and despite the fact that, depending on the water flow and how you count, you might see seven or 17 or 70 pools along just about any stream's path. You might as well call them the Several Sacred Pools.

Rangers for the National Park Service have abandoned subtlety on this issue and now hand out flyers saying "Seven Sacred Pools? There's no such place! It's a name made up as a sales gimmick to attract tourists to Hana ... [and] is degrading to native Hawaiians who are trying to preserve their language and culture."

From Hana I headed home, sand in my shoes. No matter where you are in contemporary Hawaii, there are certain circumstances on which you can rely.

There will be sand, there will be sea, and there will be an identity crisis. (Los Angeles Times)

Archeological vandalism education

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

WHAT do you do if you're walking along and find an ancient coin? According to Miki Waisman, you should note the exact spot you found it and turn it in to the Antiquities Authority.

Waisman, the director of the Jerusalem Archeological Center, says Israelis can be taught not to go on amateur expeditions and gather private collections just as they were taught not to pick wild flowers. He admits that much of the vandalism at ancient sites is the work of those who sell what they find, but he says even that can be stopped if people become convinced that it is their civic duty to report such marauders.

Waisman, an expert in prehistoric archeology, is walking at Tel Azeka, a site near the Ayalon Valley, when he comes across what appears to be an enormous stone hand axe. Waisman takes the object for further study, after marking the location with a felt-tip pen, but he insists that if it were not of scientific interest to him, he would return it.

"If I don't catalog it, I'll bring it right back here," he says.

The tell overlooks the Jerusalem-Bet Guvrin Highway. There is no sign on the highway identifying it. The dirt road which leads up to it is the first on the right as one drives south from the Ayalon junction.

The site is mentioned in Joshua. In Jeremiah we read that Rehoboam fortified it against the Babylonians.

It is best known, however, because Yigal Yadin found an ostracoon - a pottery shard bearing an inscription - at Tel Lachish in which the writer says he cannot see the beacon of Azeka. According to Yadin, the message is one of despair, written after the Babylonians had captured Azeka. Since the site has not been excavated, the casual visitor can only gaze over the valley, site of the battle between David and Goliath, and perhaps look for, and then put back, interesting pottery shards.

Near the crest of the hill is a cave used by the Jews during the revolt against the Romans. Since the passageways are complex and could be dangerous, the cave should not be explored without a guide who knows it well.

There is no such problem, however, with a similar cave, also apparently inhabited during the Jewish revolt, at Tel Judeideh, a site six kilometers south of the entrance to Tel Azeka. A small wooden sign identifies it at the side of the road, where the shoulder is wide enough for cars to park. There is a path to the cave, located on the hillside.

Here, with the aid of a flashlight, any amateur willing to crawl along on hands and knees and belly can easily enter the cave. Even an overweight, middle-aged restaurant critic found it not unduly difficult. Once inside, one can see a complete and almost perfectly preserved columbarium, where pigeons were raised. Such ancient pigeon coots are quite common in the Judean Hills. They undoubtedly provided doves for sacrifice in the Temple, but apparently even more important economically was the use of their droppings for fertilizer.

For those who want to see yet another cave, there are the remains of a once magnificent tomb at Horvat Midras (Hirbet Drusiva or Drusa), on the other side of the road, about midway between the two sites. On the outside, one can admire the exquisite stonework and an intact rolling stone door, such as that mentioned in the New Testament.

Inside, however, is a depressing view. The stone coffins that once stood on the carefully cut ledges have been overturned and black graffiti threatens against archeologists identify the damage as having been done by Keshet, a group of Jewish religious fanatics who object to the work of the archeologists.

It is a sad reminder that education against archeological vandalism has a long way to go.

Pessah getaway offers include seder meals

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Holiday Inn Eliat is offering a three-night stay, including breakfast and flights to and from Tel Aviv, for NIS 699. For weekends, the price is NIS 799.

For those who want to go away during Pessah, several of the Diersenhaus tours of Europe include a festive seder meal in the price. On most of the company's tours of the US, on the other hand, the special meal has a \$30 surcharge.

The seder meal is also included in Geographical Tours excursions during the holiday.

On the company's 16-day tour of Spain and Portugal, the festive meal will be in Salamanca, the historic Spanish university town.

The price of the tour, including air fare, is \$2,089. For those who want to be in Israel for the seder, Geographical has tours leaving during hol hamo'ed for such destinations as Tunisia and Sicily.

OPHIR TOURS has opened a special department for weekend travelers, through which clients can arrange by telephone for a short trip abroad, using their credit card. Some of the options available include London for \$358, Paris for \$385, Antalya for \$199, and Istanbul for \$299.

Yossi Tours is offering a three-night package to Istanbul from \$258, including airfare. For four nights, the lowest price is \$307. Natour is offering a four-night

package at the newly opened White Hotel in Rome, near the Trevi Fountain, for 260,000 lira (about \$160) per person, including breakfast.

A FREE guide to antiques in Britain is being distributed by the British Tourist Authority. The guide includes a map of London, showing street markets and antiques centers as well as a map of the United Kingdom.

It also has information about museums and galleries, fairs and shows, and practical advice about buying from dealers and at auctions.

There is even a section on how to send your newly acquired treasures back home. For a copy, write to BTA, POB 20094, Tel Aviv, specifying "Antiques Guide" on the envelope.

DAN HOTELS now have a free shaving-and-toothbrush set for guests who have forgotten their toiletries.

KLM is to inaugurate a line to Alma Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, with an intermediate stop in Kiev, starting March 28. The flights are to be twice weekly.

Hamei Yoav, the hot-springs spa east of Ashkelon, is now open until 10 p.m. every Tuesday. Weekday entry fees are NIS 25 for adults, NIS 20 for children.

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Sunday March 12	THEOLOGICAL SITES IN JERUSALEM Staking a claim in the city holy to Judaism. Christianity and Islam has been accepted practice for centuries. Led by experts, we'll visit a score of sites, explore the history, meet the residents and examine the connection between architecture, theology and the religious establishment. Tour guides: Tzvi Zameret (Islamic Studies, Hebrew U.), Kimi Kaplan (Jewish Thought, Hebrew U.), Dr. Idan Yaron (Monastic Life, Academy of Sciences). Price: NIS 138
Monday March 27	THE JORDANIAN BORDER OF PEACE Led by Ori Dvir, author of the best-selling Nekudot Chen, we'll see history in the making. We'll tour the border region now the center of cooperative efforts, the Sheikh Hussein Bridge - bombed in '46 and now rebuilt. Tzvi Zvi, Kfir Ruppin, Golan Hayarden, Kfir Hayarden, Yehudit, the observation post of Hamat Gader - meeting place of the borders of Israel, Jordan and Syria, the confluence of the Yarmuk and Jordan rivers and more, much more. Price: NIS 138
Wednesday April 5	THE WINE ROUTE The ideal tour for the disciples of Bacchus. We'll study the history of wine, compare ancient and modern techniques and sample a few bottles along the way. Accompanied by a vintner, we'll start at Zichron Ya'akov, visit a country winery at Mitzpeh Shorashim, see the wine presses on Mt. Meron and for lunch we'll partake of a sumptuous dairy meal at Eln Kamonim, famous for its goats and the ten cheeses they produce, country bread, fresh salad, yogurt and of course, wine. Tour Guide: David Bitan. Price: NIS 150
Sunday April 16	THE NABATEANS They lived in the desert from the 4th century BCE, they fought the Hellenistic kings and the kings of the Hasmoneans. They ruled the desert, controlled the trade routes and built the cities of Petra, Avdat, Shivta and Mamshit, and in the end were defeated by the Romans. We'll learn about them, study their agriculture and traditions, visit Avdat, their largest city, rebuilt by the Romans and by the Byzantines, and Mamshit - the city of Kurnub. Tour Guide: Archeologist Avner Goren. Price: NIS 145
Wednesday May 10	IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS The battle at Yodfat was terrifying. The Jews didn't stand a chance. They chose to die rather than fall into Roman hands. All except one, their leader Joseph Ben Matityahu, now known as Josephus Flavius. Did he desert his people or did he find another way to serve them, as a historian? We'll visit Yodfat, scene of the battle, now a prosperous Galilee moshav, Zippori - the seat of the Sanhedrin in Talmudic times and home of Judah Hanasi, codifier of the Mishna, the city whose beautiful mosaics and impressive antiquities have been revealed by archeologists. We'll lunch at Kibbutz Hanaton. Tour Guide: Archeologist Motti Aviam. Price: NIS 145

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Tel 02-666231 (9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.)
Ask for Tami, or Varda.



Bamba, tainted with salmonella in the UK, is not affected locally.

(Sharon Gershoni)

Bamba a hit in England — with the hospitals

IT'S good, it's Osem: that's how the jingle goes, but it has not been that way in Britain recently. In fact, for a major food manufacturer, the past two weeks bear the hallmarks of a full-blown nightmare.

Osem's problems started on February 9 when its London office was alerted to the fact that six children at a Jewish school in Leeds had developed stomach pains and diarrhea after eating Bamba, one of Osem's most famous products.

The company immediately withdrew the 9,000 remaining packets of the suspect "End of April 1995" batch from its 47 outlets to be tested by inspectors from the British Department of Health and by its own food technologists.

By then, however, most of the batch had been sold and a further 30 Bamba-related cases of food poisoning, with effects lasting two to four days, were reported from predominantly Jewish areas in other parts of the country.

Tests conducted on the peanut-flavored puffed-corn snack revealed that "a few" of the other Bamba packets from the batch were contaminated.

Osem's British managing director Giora Zucker is relieved that extensive tests conducted in the subsequent "End of May 1995" batch, currently on sale in the stores, were cleared by Department of Health inspections.

He declares himself profoundly mystified by the episode. Zucker does not argue with the general conclusion that the Bamba was contaminated, but he is puzzled about how, why and where the contamination occurred.

First mystery is that the prob-

Osem's famous snack food has been hit with a curious case of poisoning. Douglas Davis reports from London

lem was caused by salmonella, which normally affects inadequately cooked chicken and eggs, not a snack food based on corn and peanuts.

In fact, says Zucker, you would have to go way back to 1986 to find a similar case of salmonella, and then the case involved a product made up of yeast powder and cereal.

Not only is it extremely rare for a product like Bamba to be infected by this bacterium, but the Bamba contamination was caused by a particularly rare strain of salmonella.

Second mystery is how the salmonella got into the packets. Zucker is reasonably satisfied that the vacuum-sealed packets were not tampered with after arrival in Britain.

At the same time, Osem is testing staff at its Bamba factory in Holon to try to determine whether contamination might have been caused by a salmonella-infected worker touching the product.

Here, too, there is a puzzle, says Zucker, because, theoretically at least, there should be no

human contact on the production line, although he admits that "we can't exclude the possibility that someone touched the mix."

Third mystery is how, if the batch was infected, signs of contamination were found in only nine of the 450 "April 1995" cases (containing a total of 21,600 packets) that were imported to Britain.

"We are puzzled about all this," Zucker said yesterday, "and we hope to have the answers soon. In the meantime, we are investigating the matter and we are keeping an open mind."

The fact that Bamba is not the flavor of the month does not appear to particularly disturb Osem's boss in London, who takes a long and philosophical view of the dilemma.

"Bamba has proved to be a marvelous snack for the past 30 years and I am sure it will be a marvelous snack for the next 30 years," he says. "People might be apprehensive about buying it for a while, but confidence will return in time."

"Don't forget," he adds, "Bamba is a snack for young children, and young children don't understand newspaper reports."

Maria Meisels adds: A spokesperson for Osem locally said that "there is no such problem on the Israeli market." Tests done here both by Osem itself and by an outside laboratory showed everything "absolutely up to standards."

The same source said it is clear that the problem was not caused here, but "in the transport or storage" of the Bamba.

The company added that this is the first time such a thing has happened to an Osem product in 30 years of exporting.

(Continued from Page One)

The police spokesman released a statement last night saying the police would not react publicly to allegations they had not properly investigated alleged leaks from the GSS.

Israel Radio reported that the

police had received the tape recording used in the trial four years ago, but at some point their investigation had not continued.

"As the matter is presently under legal proceedings, we will not provide any reaction on the matter," the spokesman said. "But if

we are asked by the attorney-general, we will give him all the information we have."

However, Police Minister Moshe Shalom last night ordered Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz to investigate the police handling of the alleged leaks and to report to him immediately.

Meanwhile, four MKs sent a joint letter asking Ben-Yair to investigate alleged leaks from the GSS or police to suspected criminals, as suggested in the Deri trial.

GSS

The four — Limor Livnat (Likud), Hagai Merom (Labor), Dedi Zucker (Meretz), and Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomot) — called the tapes "very frightening."

"The trial is continuing as normal, and of course it should not be interfered with, but it seems to us there must be an immediate inquiry into the suspicions which arise from this tape, that there is a subversive link at the most sen-

sitive junctions between the GSS or the police and suspected criminals under investigation," the MKs wrote.

They demanded that Ben-Yair order the Justice Ministry's police investigations department to look into the matter.

Livnat, who is spearheading the call, said the apparent leak is "extremely serious."

Zucker, chairman of the Knesset Law Committee, told Israel Radio the evidence "endangers public trust in the GSS. Whether Weinberg was just boasting or speaking the truth, the allegation of a police or GSS leak must be

investigated."

He said the affair reconfirms the need for judicial supervision of wiretapping, even in security-related cases.

Dan Izenberg adds: According to the 1979 Wiretapping Law, there are two ways in which citizens can be wiretapped legally, according to Ze'ev Segal, a senior lecturer in law at Tel Aviv University and legal commentator for Ha'aretz.

The police may wiretap people suspected of involvement in criminal activities, after receiving authorization from the president of a district court. The GSS or IDF

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Learning other people's histories

A diverse group of youngsters is learning how to turn a problem into a strength, Rachel Neiman reports

TEENAGERS the world over look alike these days: they all wear the big-pants-and-backwards-caps look made popular in the global village by MTV.

But there are differences, hard ones sometimes, conflicts, and they are being faced with the idea of getting youth to help each other by Hands Across the Ocean.

The international student leadership program has held its pilot trip over the past nine days, bringing together 52 Arab-Israeli and Jewish-Israeli, African-American and American-Jewish high-schoolers in Israel, to talk about what Israelis call coexistence and Americans call reconciliation.

"There are profound similarities and substantial differences between the groups," says Dr. Diane Steinman, executive director of the New York chapter of a program cosponsored by the American Jewish Committee. "The trick is to make sure the differences don't cancel each other out."

For over a week now, says 16-year-old Orli Cotel, a student at Stuyvesant High School in New York City, the teens have been getting to know one another at a Jerusalem youth hostel. "We live four to a room, one person from each school. We eat together, we travel together — we haven't been apart."

A good part of the time together has been spent in leadership workshops.

The newly formed group will continue to meet over the next three years until the end of high school, so they are building the basis now. It is not yet clear what the framework for future meetings will be, says Steinman. "A lot will depend on the outcome of the activities they have designed and will implement in their communities upon their return."

Fadi Abu-Ahmad, 16, a student at the St. Joseph Seminaire El-Mutrah in Nazareth, has a passion for traditional folk culture. "I tell people about their history," he says. Abu-Ahmad has already organized walking tours around the old city of Nazareth and to Arab villages destroyed in 1948. "I read about the war. I think it's important to tell my society about their history."

Cotel is still reeling from a marathon discussion: "We just talked about our different cultures till four in the morning."

Katherine Duncan, a 14-year-old ninth-grader at Frederick Douglass Academy in New York, has decided on a three-year project: "I'm going to learn Hebrew."



(From left) Orli of New York, Roni of Jerusalem, cheerleader Katherine from New York, Fadi of Nazareth. "We talked about our different cultures until 4 a.m." (Hanan Guttman)

Each nation has to know their history in order to help them on their way to the future."

The program, says Steinman, "looked for kids with maturity, leadership skills, academic excellence and a commitment to reducing bigotry." Those who were selected were singled out by guidance counselors or teachers. All were subjected to a selection process — some more rigorous than others — including writing essays, interviews and monitored group talks.

"They were looking for people who could express their ideas in a discussion," Jerusalemite Roni Katz says of her interview process.

Sixteen-year-old Katz is a model youth leader. A member and leader of the Zionist Youth Council, a Histadrut-sponsored organization, Katz is also treasurer of the student council at the Hebrew University Secondary School and serves as youth representative to the Jerusalem 3600 committee.

Katz is all agog over the cheerleaders of New York's Frederick Douglass Academy. "They do things that are so amazing I just can't look!"

Cotel is still reeling from a marathon discussion: "We just talked about our different cultures till four in the morning."

Katherine Duncan, a 14-year-old ninth-grader at Frederick Douglass Academy in New York, has decided on a three-year project: "I'm going to learn Hebrew."

Asked why, she says: "Because I think one barrier between Blacks and Jews is definitely the language. If you can break through that, then you can start working on other ones."

Says Abu-Ahmad: "If we can learn about each other, talk, eat and play with each other, then we can understand the other point of view and reach a compromise."

"What's exciting is that these children are saying things we thought they would say only after the second year," says Frederick Douglass Academy principal Dr. Lorraine Monroe. "They're already talking about change."

In order to prepare for the trip Frederick Douglass students visited synagogues and Manhattan's Jewish Museum. Both the New York and Israel-based groups also met one another earlier this year. A reciprocal trip to New York is planned for November.

The point, Monroe says, is that "this is not a single episode, but something that is ongoing." In educational theory if you say something three times it is embedded. "A three-year program, she feels, allows plenty of time to nurture the ideas now planted."

Hands Across the Ocean was developed by the AJC in New York together with the Israeli Consulate in New York City under the auspices of the AJC-sponsored student leadership program Hands Across the Campus. Other supporters of the trip are Israel's Foreign Ministry, the Education Ministry, the municipalities of Jerusalem, Nazareth and Tel

Aviv, and the participating high schools (including Tel Aviv's Ironi Dalet High School).

Support is forthcoming, says Steinman, because "this is not a pleasure trip but a commitment towards improving the communities. In the long run you need to bolster the ideals that enable societies to function as pluralistic."

This means diversity has to be changed from a problem into a strength. "By developing leadership skills 'diversity becomes a tremendous source of vitality rather than a difficulty.'"

At 8:30 on a rainy Wednesday night, seated in Jaffa's Arab-Jewish community center, the young leaders are aware they are almost at the end of a tremendously emotional experience.

Orli Cotel tries to make sense of it: "The fact that we're all getting to know each other, I think, is a big accomplishment."

Roni Katz bursts out: "Even if we never change the world, the fact that we now know people from other cultures and we know we're going to cry when they go back to the States — the others sign in agreement — 'I think it means something.'"

"We talked about all kinds of things," says Katherine Duncan, "and we found out we read the same books. We discussed issues that adults discuss. You find out people have the same views, or different views and why."

These baggy-panted, MTV-bred, global villagers may have more in common than even they suspect.

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ISLAMIC

and forbidding it to run in the elections on the grounds that it denies the essence of Israel as a Jewish state.

Rekhes noted that the Islamic leaders have been reiterating their recognition of the state, and their insistence on the difference between them and the violently anti-Israel Islamic movements in the Arab world.

There is no legal pretext for outlawing them, he said, nor would it be in Israel's interest to do so.

Politically, it is in the interest of the Labor Party and its left-wing coalition partners to permit

A CALL FOR HELP

Nino Kapanadze is a two and a half year old girl from Tbilisi, Georgia. In March 1994, after surgery in Tbilisi, she was diagnosed as having teratoblastoma (cancer), requiring chemotherapy. Because of the civil war in Georgia, the Tbilisi Oncological Center is closed, and no medicine is available.

Brought to Israel by her parents for treatment, Nino was admitted to "Tel Hashomer" for chemotherapy. Now, after 4 series of treatment, the money raised for Nino's treatment by Tbilisians, has run out. Nino's parents, Iraki and Chata, find themselves with a very sick girl, with no money or friends, in a strange country with which they have already fallen in love, and on whose health care they pin their last hope.

Nino's doctors say she certainly requires two more series of chemotherapy treatments. Even at the low "Tupat Haim" prices, it will cost around NIS 11,000.

Contributions may be transferred to the following bank account: Iraki Kapanadze, Bank Leumi, Branch 834, Account No. 37801997 (NIS), Account No. 37801917 (foreign currency). Facts have been verified by the Zionist Forum.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1995

Shekem workers protest Rabin's insults

DOZENS of Shekem workers yesterday demonstrated in front of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's house in Tel Aviv to protest his remark that "Shekem's fired workers are parasites."

The protesters jeered the prime minister and his wife and held signs reading: "Your Cadillac is worth 120 of our wages," and: "Yesterday you praised us - today you slander us."

The workers also protested against the deci-

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

sion by Shekem's new owners, the Elco group, to fire 600 of Shekem's workers, including mothers on maternity leave and single mothers.

Chairman of the workers committee Itzik Muel said the workers will not hesitate to strike if management continues to ignore their claims.

"The government has to interfere in the

dispute. It still owns one quarter of the company's shares," said Muel.

Earlier this week, Shekem workers appealed to Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair to open a criminal investigation against Rabin in connection with violation of sub judice laws. The workers say Rabin referred to them as parasites even though Shekem workers and management are trying to resolve their differences in Labor Court.

Court again delays ruling on sale of Ram Industries

THE Tel Aviv District Court yesterday decided to postpone the decision regarding the sale of Ram Industries until March 14, giving the potential buyers more time to increase their bids.

Tel Aviv District Court Judge Yishai Levit agreed with Ram Industries' special managers' argument that postponing the sale is expected to encourage potential contenders to improve bids. Company appraisers have valued Ram at \$45m.

The special managers argued that delaying the decision will not harm the company. Ram Industries went into receivership in 1992.

In reaction to Levit's decision, the Belgium T.N.R. consortium

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

increased its bid by \$9m. The company proposes purchasing Rams' assets and its business for \$45m.

The Rubi Asa group has asked to purchase Ram Industries for \$54m. in the framework of a creditors agreement, based on repayment of the company's debts to creditors. The group has also submitted a bid to buy the company's assets for \$48m., on the assumption that the court may reject the creditors agreement.

The Rubi Asa consortium is made up of Asa, Italian steel magnate Andrea Pitini, Swiss investment company Intradev, and Prof. Nissim Aranya.

Yehuda Industries, is bidding \$36m. for the company's assets and its business. This does not include the company's stocks, valued at NIS 5m.

This was the second time the court has decided to postpone the sale. Two weeks ago, it came to the same decision, claiming the potential buyers' bids were significantly lower than estimates of the company's worth.

Ram's secured creditors include Maritime Bank, Industrial Development Bank and PKO, a Polish bank. The amount owed to the secured creditors is estimated at between \$15m. and \$17m., while the unsecured creditors are owed some \$100m.

Tecnomatix reports \$1.13m. net loss for '94

RACHEL NEIMAN

TECNOMATIX has reported a net loss of \$1.13 million for 1994, compared with a net gain of \$2.59m. for 1993. The loss was attributed to one-time charges of \$4.5m. in connection with the acquisition of US-based Valisys Corporation and in connection with a discontinued product.

Revenues for 1994 increased 39% to \$23.4m., from \$16.8m. in 1993.

Net profits for the last quarter of 1994 were \$1.2m., or \$0.15 per share, as compared with \$1.1m., or \$0.14 per share during the same period in 1993, on quarterly revenues of \$7.2m. as compared with \$5m.

No need for gov't intervention

IF only the politicians would leave well enough alone.

Certainly, all seems doom and gloom in the market. But in the capitalist scheme of things, markets go up and markets go down. Anyone who thinks markets go up forever and ever, should stop by Wacky Tours, where they are holding a one-way ticket to Cloud cuckoo land for him.

We are currently in the thick of what is known as a bear market. And the norm in developed countries with market economies and sane stock markets (and investors) is that unless there is a risk of the destabilization of key elements in the economy, the authorities leave well alone.

As far as I can see, there is no economic crisis around the corner that warrants government intervention.

Unfortunately, the attitude of

COMMENT

NEIL COWEN

too many Israelis to savings and investment was developed in Turkish casinos, and their attitude to government intervention was developed under socialism. A long-term investment is anything you hold for more than a week, and if it goes wrong, the state has a duty to bail you out.

Sooner or later, there will come a point when someone will decide that a real opportunity exists. He will start buying again, and others will follow and the market will recover.

But as long as politicians pretend that there is a crisis, the market will surely believe them.

Insurance premiums INSURANCE companies are perfectly entitled to use whatever legitimate means they can to make a profit.

If they suffer heavy underwriting losses, they are entitled to try

to hike premiums and lower their risk profile. So, given the losses they suffered last year, the desire of companies writing automobile insurance to hike premiums is understandable.

What is much less understandable is the conspiracy of silence that surrounds the car-theft business. And make no mistake, it is big business.

According to police and car insurers, about NIS 400 out of each premium, about NIS 300 million a year, is handed by the public to car thieves via insurers.

That money could be used to reduce car theft, which the police say can be done if only they had greater resources. Spending some of that NIS 300 million to block the Gaza shop route would, they say, reap sizeable rewards. And the insurance companies refusing to sanction used parts should, in theory, cut the demand for stolen cars.

But, no one seems willing to take the thieves on. It is time that changed.

Shipyard workers vandalize Histadrut offices

RACHEL NEIMAN

ISRAELI Shipyard workers vandalized the entrance of Haifa's Histadrut headquarters yesterday morning, breaking windows and doors, and uprooting plants.

The melee was in response to a report by the works committee that it would not be possible to protect jobs or ensure all the workers' rights after the company was sold. The works committee later resigned.

Among the issues at stake is a 180% severance pay rate for those workers fired following the company's sale. A similar rate was given to workers fired in March 1994.

Following the outbreak, workers entered the Histadrut conference room, where Yigal Cohen, acting head of the Histadrut in Haifa, calmed tempers down. Cohen will now conduct negotiations for the workers in place of the works committee.

An emergency Histadrut meeting of representatives from all workers committees in the Haifa region was called yesterday at request of Israel Shipyard workers. It was decided that on Sunday there would be a solidarity meeting of all Histadrut-affiliated workers in Haifa.

On Tuesday, when the Knesset Finance committee is to decide on the sale of Israel Shipyards, the 230 workers plan to demonstrate in front of the Knesset.

Tefahot reports 26.6% rise in net profit

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TEFAHOT Israel Mortgage Bank, a subsidiary of United Mizrahi Bank, completed 1994 with a net profit of NIS 95 million, compared with NIS 75.1m. in 1993, up 26.6%.

The bank's annual net return on equity increased to 15.3% from 13.8% in 1993. In the fourth quarter of 1994, Tefahot's net profits rose to NIS 23.3m., from NIS 20.5m.

Profit from financing activities before provision for doubtful debts increased to NIS 240.4m., from NIS 208.5m. Provision for doubtful debts rose to NIS 12.5m., from NIS 9.9m.

Management attributed the rise in profitability to the rapid growth in the bank's credit portfolio and the implementation of

efficiency measures. Credit to the public increased to NIS16b. at the end of 1994, from NIS 13.2b. at the end of 1993.

Last year's mortgages to the public grew 27% to NIS 5.3b. Total assets grew 19.3% to NIS 16.8 billion.

Tefahot General Manager Uri Wirzburger said 1994 was a record year in terms of granting of credit.

"It is reasonable to assume that the rise in apartment prices will slow down, which will lead to a reduction in demand for apartments. For this reason, loans to people without mortgage rights are expected to drop while loans to people with rights are expected to remain unchanged," said Wirzburger.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fruit, olive growers to get advance on damage compensation: Fruit and olive growers will receive an advance on the compensation they are entitled to for the winter of 1994's natural disaster. The farmers will receive an advance of NIS 16m. out of total compensation of NIS 80m. The government declared the winter of 1994 a natural disaster for fruit-growers, because of the high temperatures which significantly reduced farmers' crops.

Siemens wins \$12.6m. IEC contract: Siemens will provide Israel with its new central nuclear-wide inspection system for electrical overload. The Israel Electric Corporation announced the \$12.675m. contract yesterday. The system will allow independent energy suppliers to be linked to the power grid, and also hook-ups between Israel and neighboring countries. The equipment changeover includes provision of new computer hardware and software to all regional and national inspection centers and simulation training systems. It is expected to be up and running in 1997.

WORLD BRIEFS

Telegraph shares soar on Black bid plan: A surprise plan unveiled by Canadian media baron Conrad Black to buy back the two-fifths stake in British newspaper group The Telegraph that he no longer owns sent its shares soaring 18% in London yesterday. The buy-back would reabsorb The Telegraph into Hollinger Inc., the hub of Black's international media empire, ending a sometimes controversial three-year chapter as a public company.

The Telegraph also reported 1994 profits of \$45m., right in line with media analysts' forecasts, but said it remained reluctantly locked into a price war that cost it \$15m last year.

Royal Dutch/Shell profits surge: The Royal Dutch/Shell Group yesterday reported 1994 net income on a current cost basis surged 24 percent to nearly £4b., helped by a decisive upturn in the chemicals division. Net income was £3.995b., up from £3.27b. in 1993.

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WORLD MARKET REPORTS

• Buying of US T-bonds followed Alan Greenspan's Senate testimony, which was less hawkish on inflation, and more optimistic on the economy. The yield on the benchmark 30yr T-bond fell to 7.58%. He suggested the interest rate cycle may have peaked. The dollar fell to low not seen since October 1992. While a bounce is possible, the historically low interest rate and bond yield differentials over the German mark mean that the dollar has probably not peaked its lows. This will discourage overseas support for T-bonds.

• Wall Street is at the upper end of its trading range (3850 - 4000), and some impetus is required to break 4000. Dollar weakness and trepidation over the Mexican crisis is restraining advances.

• The auction of \$2bn 10yr UK gilts went extremely well. There was good support from domestic institutions, and it was clear that they had been waiting for this issue. The March long gilt future moved above 105-00, breaking resistance at 105-05 - the next target at the time of writing is 105-12.

• The FT-SE 100 index drifted down to touch 3015, but is trying to recover its pole. The fall from 3110 was largely on political and currency considerations. We have seen renewed interest in BOC (BOC), Guinness (GUIN), Unilever (UNVR) after encouraging results, and ICI (ICL) also after a positive presentation of their 1994 results. The fall from 3110 seems likely to prove to have been a correction of the 1993 rally in the previous three weeks, rather than a resumption of the downward trend. The fundamentals support this view.

• Hong Kong fell this week on US dollar weakness, and reports that Washington DC was involved. Government bond auctions presented a mixed picture, with the commercial and industrial ones failing to reach reserve prices, but with some encouragement from the residential sales which were at or above expectations. The index is range-trading between 7800 and 8400 with little sign of an imminent break-out. The real interest in the Singapore market failed to hold the market above the 2070 support level. The next major base is at 2030. However, the underlying picture for the market is not bearish, either technically or fundamentally. The Kuala Lumpur market also looks significant support at 950, but there should be strong support at 900 - 950. The preparations for the General Election are growing more intense, and an announcement of a date would fire up the market. There is a three day holiday next week, so activity will be restrained.

• The South African markets have been dominated by indications from the central bank that the Rand may be about to be abolished. The Rand discount has returned to 4%, the lowest point for many years. It is expected that it will be abolished when the Budget is presented on March 15.

• Gold bullion is supported at US\$379/oz, but US\$381/oz should limit the extent of the upside.

Any information contained herein should not be construed in any way as a public offering.

Mekoroth Water Co. Ltd.
Development Unit
Tender P-03-95

Mekoroth Water Co. Ltd. invites companies with appropriate facilities and experience to participate in a tender for **DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, INSTALLATION, AND RUNNING-IN OF PLANT TO DESALINATE SEA WATER IN EILAT**

The work involved is the design, manufacture, installation and running-in of plant to desalinate sea water, at a site adjacent to the existing desalination plants (Sabha). For Stage A, a plant with a capacity of 8,000 cu. m. per day is required. Mekoroth reserves the right to contact the successful bidder, with a view to expanding plant.

The tender documents will be available free from February 26, 1995, from the Development Unit, Mekoroth, 9 Lincoln, 7th floor, Tel Aviv, against payment of NIS\$5,000 plus VAT (non-refundable). The tender documents may be perused before purchase.

Only companies with proven experience in the design, manufacture, installation and running-in of similar equipment, and which meet the conditions detailed in the tender documents may participate in the tender.

A tour of the installation site for contractors will be held on March 27, 1995 - meet at 10 a.m. at the Mekoroth site Sabha near Eilat.

Bids must be submitted by 12 noon on May 15, 1995. They should be placed in the tenders box at the Development Unit (not sent by mail). The criteria, on the basis of which the tender will be awarded, are detailed in the tender documents.

Mekoroth reserves the right to negotiate with participants whose bids are found appropriate. Please contact Menahem Priel or Nissim Nadav of the Desalination Unit, Tel. 03-208607, Fax. 03-208664 during working hours, for clarification of any queries.

Zvi Ashkenazi
Chairman, Tenders Committee

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Aaron L. Heimowitz, CFP
Vice President, Investments, Dean Witter

Dates:
Thursday, March 2, 1995
Friday, March 3, 1995
Sunday, March 5, 1995

Locations:
Moriah Tel Aviv - 6:30 p.m.
Jerusalem Hyatt - 9:00 a.m.
Plaza Jerusalem - 6:30 p.m.

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Box 7305 Jerusalem, Israel

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☐ Thursday, March 2, 1995
☐ Friday, March 3, 1995
☐ Sunday, March 5, 1995

Mariah Tel Aviv - 6:30 p.m.
Jerusalem Hyatt - 9:00 a.m.
Plaza Jerusalem - 6:30 p.m.

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German mark (DM 200,000)	3.625	3.750	3.875	4.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	2.875	2.875	2.875
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	0.875	0.875
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (23.2.95)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
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U.S. dollar	3.2650	3.4300	2.92	3.4082
German mark	2.7782	3.0207	2.92	3.0200
Japanese yen (100)	2.0519	2.0503	1.98	2.0350
French franc	4.7401	4.8958	4.84	4.7761
Swiss franc	0.5787	0.5870	0.64	0.5833
British pound	3.0728	3.1161	3.01	3.0857
Dutch guilder	1.8033	1.8287	1.77	1.8151
Swedish krona	2.5785	2.6389	2.53	2.5823
Scandinavian krona	0.4691	0.4149	0.40	0.4120
Norwegian krone	0.4650	0.4954	0.45	0.4628
Denmark krone	0.5118	0.5190	0.50	0.5151
Finland mark	0.8561	0.8654	0.84	0.8527
Canadian dollar	2.1234	2.1834	2.06	2.1529
Australian dollar	2.1094	2.2373	2.00	2.2170
S. African rand	0.8229	0.8345	0.79	0.8344
Belgian franc (10)	0.8821	0.8959	0.86	0.8887
Austrian schilling (10)	8.8715	8.8115	8.82	8.8919
Italian lira (1000)	1.8418	1.8677	1.80	1.8577
Japanese yen (100)	—	—	4.15	4.2793
Spanish peseta (100)	—	—	0.85	0.8500
EURO	3.7859	3.8392	3.78	3.8393
Irish punt	2.7182	4.7889	4.81	4.7542
Spanish peseta (100)	2.7108	2.5430	2.54	2.5528

Key Representative Rates	
	Change
US dollar ... NIS 3.0030	-0.17%
Sterling NIS 4.7781	+0.39%
Mark NIS 2.0030	-0.12%

New York market indexes	
	Change
DJ Industrial	+17.7
DJ Composite	+17.7
DJ 100	+17.7
NASDAQ	+17.7
S&P 500	+17.7
Dow Jones	+17.7
NYSE	+17.7
AMEX	+17.7

Other stock market indexes	
	Change
FTSE 100	+17.7
London	+17.7
Hong Kong	+17.7
Shanghai	+17.7
Hang Seng	+17.7
ASX	+17.7

Israeli stocks in NY	
	Change
Amir	+17.7
Amir	+17.7
Amir	+17.7
Amir	+17.7
Amir	+17.7
Amir	+17.7

Dollar crossrates (US)	
	Change
US dollar	+17.7
Sterling	+17.7
Mark	+17.7
Yen	+17.7
Franc	+17.7
Yuan	+17.7

Libor rates	
	Change
3 months	+17.7
6 months	+17.7
12 months	+17.7
18 months	+17.7
24 months	+17.7
36 months	+17.7

Foreign financial data courtesy of	
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US commodities	
	Change
Oil	+17.7
Grain	+17.7
Metals	+17.7
Softwood	+17.7
Hardwood	+17.7
Textiles	+17.7

London commodities	
	Change
Oil	+17.7
Grain	+17.7
Metals	+17.7
Softwood	+17.7
Hardwood	+17.7
Textiles	+17.7

Spot metal prices (US)	
	Change
Gold	+17.7
Silver	+17.7
Copper	+17.7
Aluminum	+17.7
Zinc	+17.7
Nickel	+17.7

New York metal futures	
	Change
Gold	+17.7
Silver	+17.7
Copper	+17.7
Aluminum	+17.7
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Nickel	+17.7

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Prices, hysteria dip on the exchange

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO

Two-Sided index

Maof index

Karam index

THE level of hysteria declined somewhat on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange - and so did prices on all fronts. The Two-Sided index declined 1.3% to stand at 149.09, the Maof 1.4% to 148.66 and the Karam by 2.2% to 127.54. Total turnover was NIS 82.9 million, to which the Karam market contributed NIS 23 million.

Psychological thresholds were breached yesterday: the Maof and Two-Sided index dropped below the 150 mark; the Karam is now below 130. These indices represent nominal price rises since the beginning of 1992, but because the general price level has risen by more than 50% since then, it means that prices are down 25% in real terms on the Karam market and that the Two-Sided has barely managed to keep up. Not a pretty sight.

The sale of bonds by the provident funds and the mutual funds, continued, albeit at a somewhat slower pace. Some investors are taking heart from the fact that the central bank and the Treasury are promising to support the market and stayed put. But in some cases, it was plain that some investors were also taking heart from the same fact and were selling.

There is a simplistic analysis of the problem which goes on like this: Israel is redeeming their provident funds and investing the proceeds in savings plans, where there is no risk. This is interpreted as meaning that there is no danger to the financial market, since money is leaving one pocket and entering the other.

The only problem is that provident funds constitute the only form of very long-term savings. The funds must be saved for 15 years before the depositor has a chance to redeem them. By moving from 15-year savings schemes to plans that lock up money for only 3 to 5 years, the investor is changing the center of gravity of the whole system. The provident funds are practically the only buyers of 10 to 15 year bonds, and nearly the only suppliers of non-governmental long-term financing. Shrinking

those source of funds is not exactly a healthy phenomenon.

The provident funds now available for redemption were opened more than fifteen years ago, when inflation was uncontrolled. Now that the economy has returned to a more normal situation - or at least a less abnormal one - there is less willingness among investors to invest in such funds.

There has been a genuine change in the economic situation since the late Seventies and early Eighties and nothing has been really done to cope with this change as far as long-term savings are concerned. There is no significant straight corporate bond market or any alternative to the provident funds. Hence the crisis, which was just waiting to happen. It may have been accelerated by the crisis on the share market, but was not caused by it.

What is most worrisome is the ready availability of money to the government do something.

The Bank of Israel reported yesterday that it had exhausted its ceiling of NIS 15.5 billion in the area of the Treasury Bill issue. There is, somewhere in the corridors of the Knesset, a bill that would raise that ceiling. But until that law is changed, the central bank will not be able to sell Treasury Bills at the same time as it pumps money into the economy, whether by buying foreign currency, which is being sold in large quantities by the business sector, or by buying bonds being dumped unceremoniously by the provident funds. In both cases, the money supply rises, which is an inflationary factor.

It is a difficult situation and one wonders whether the present government, which is not taken very seriously due to its managerial bungling, will be able to cope with the present problem. This makes the continued erosion of the share market seem like a tempest in a tea cup. One wonders how the share market could actually recover as long as the government seems to be mismanaging the present crisis.

LONDON (Reuters) - British shares closed with solid gains as inflation fears subsided and Wall Street rallied, marking the sudden end of several days of gloom and sluggish trade. The FTSE 100 index ended 29.8 points higher at 3,049.3.

FRANKFURT - German shares pushed higher, still supported by strong German Bund futures prices. Turnover picked up but was insufficient to help prices pierce key resistance at 2,145 level. The 30-share DAX index closed up 25.08 points at 2,118.24.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks plunged in the afternoon but were off the day's lows on late buying on dips. Brokers said sentiment remained weak as worries persisted that investors would unwind arbitrage-linked buying positions against the March Nikkei index futures contracts. The key 225-share Nikkei average closed down 276.63 points.

HONG KONG - Stocks closed moderately higher in thin, session trading led mostly by index futures movement. The blue-chip Hang Seng index gained 67.14 points to close at 7,976.41.

DOW JONES STREAKS over magic 4,000 mark

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Overcoming months of uncertainty over the direction of the economy and inflation, the Dow Jones industrial average topped the 4,000 mark yesterday for the first time in history.

The bellwether index of 30 blue-chip stocks hit 4,000.30 at 9:58 a.m. EST, about a half-hour after the start of trading on the New York Stock Exchange. It closed at 4,003.33, up 30.28.

The milestone was achieved amid optimism in the nation's financial markets generated by indications Wednesday from Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan that the central bank may be finished raising interest rates.

The Dow, which gained 9.08 points Wednesday to close at 3,973.05, began soaring yesterday morning.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 30.28 to 4,003.33.

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● Israel's leading physicians answer your health questions. Judy Siegel brings you the latest on new treatments and new technology.

ON MONDAYS:

● You get the New York Times's comprehensive, eight-page news review.
● And the "law report" Asher Felix Landau's unique review of court cases in the news.

ON TUESDAYS:

● The Arts and Entertainment pages feature Dora Sowden's internationally acclaimed dance reviews; Naomi Doudai's drama critiques; concert roundups by Benjamin Bar-Am and Ury Epstein; Tower Records' Top 15; reviews of new audio releases by Tizah Agassi.

ON WEDNESDAYS:

● Money Magazine. The Post's 12-page business supplement.
● The Middle East page brings you an Arab news digest, articles on and by Israel's neighbors.

ON THURSDAYS:

● The Post's "agony aunt" Ruth Blum answers readers' questions.
● Intelligence experts Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg give you inside stories of international intrigue.

Dinitz: Agency wasn't interested in properly categorizing my expenses

"THERE were data on my personal and institutional expenses; there were sources for other data; what was lacking was the desire to categorize them properly on the part of the financial section of the emissaries department," former Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Dinitz testified yesterday, in his ongoing trial on fraud charges in Jerusalem District Court.

During the cross-examination of Dinitz by prosecutor Shimon Dolan, as during most of the trial, the focus was on whether Dinitz needed to become involved in categorizing his expenses, as the prosecution contends, or whether he could become involved only when asked about specific expenses, as he contends.

"What is certain," Dolan said, "is that without you it was impossible to categorize your expenses."

"Perhaps not 100 percent," Dinitz countered. "But certainly 90 percent."

"Did you really believe that after every trip, a clerk from the emissaries department would come to you and ask you dozens of questions about your expenses?" Dolan asked.

"I certainly did," Dinitz replied. "But the emissaries department wasn't at all interested."

Immigrant unemployment down in 1994

JOSE ROSENFELD

IMMIGRANT unemployment last year dropped to 13.2% from 19.4% in 1993, but was nearly 70 percent higher than the national average of 7.8%, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The number of employed immigrants jumped 27.7% to an average of 198,000 compared with 155,000 in 1993. Correspondingly, unemployment fell 21% to 30,000 immigrants compared to 38,000 in 1993. Male unemployment fell to 12.5% from 15.5% in 1993.

Christopher returning next month

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher will return to the region in mid-March, Israeli officials here confirmed yesterday.

His five-day trip will include Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Gaza. The officials said he would be in Israel on March 7 and 8.

A State Department spokeswoman said, "He's made the decision to go, but as far as when, the details, that hasn't been decided yet."

Meanwhile, a senior US official denied an Israel Radio report that President Bill Clinton plans to host a meeting of the Middle East leaders who convened two weeks ago in Cairo.

"That's wrong; that I can tell you is categorically wrong," he said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, speaking in the North yesterday, said he had not heard of plans for the alleged summit, but that he would be happy to attend, according to him.

Christopher's visit will focus on bringing about a resumption of the Israeli-Syrian ambassadorial talks here that have been sus-

pended since late December, and advancing the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, an Israeli official said.

Ambassadors Itamar Rabinovich and Walid Mualem have recently been meeting separately with US peace team coordinator Dennis Ross, who has served as an intermediary, but the three have not all met together as before, the official said.

Speaking at the National Press Club yesterday, Ross said the US has "been involved intensively in meetings since the Syrian ambassador returned" and that "what comes through is a very serious commitment on the part of the parties to make headway."

"The fact that the military chiefs of staff met was a very important factor in this process. The decision to have such a meeting indicates there is a desire to reach an agreement."

To restart those talks, "The assessment here is that you have to talk to [Syrian

President Hafez] Assad himself. The very fact the Secretary of State is going to the region sends a message: The US is involved," the official said. "Beyond that, I think he'll explain to Assad that time is short, that he can't proceed at a snail's pace."

While not wanting to comment on the trip before it is officially announced, the administration official said the only options for solving the current stalemate are direct talks, or talks with US assistance. "There is no third option," he said.

The official called "a non-starter" the PLO's press statement following its executive committee meeting Wednesday in Cairo that called on the US, Europeans, and others to press Israel on the troop redeployment issue.

"That's not how negotiations work," the US official said.

"Obviously, [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat needs things and he's not happy that he's not getting them... It's posturing in response to what they perceive to be a serious problem. It won't work that way, it never does."



Police lead away a haredi protester in Jaffa yesterday, on the second day of demonstrations against construction on what the haredim say is an ancient Jewish cemetery. Some 400 protesters tried to block construction equipment and more than 70 were arrested, including Rabbi Gedalia Nadel, the head of the Shoboda Yeshiva in Bnei Brak. When news of his arrest reached the yeshiva, two busloads of students were rushed to the site to join the protest. (Aron Rapoport/Flash)

Nikel, Kadishman, Reznick win Israel Prize for visual arts

Jerusalem Post Staff

THIS year's Israel Prizes for the visual arts are being awarded to painter Leah Nikel, sculptor Menashe Kadishman, and architect David Reznick, the Science and Arts Ministry announced last night.

Born in Russia and here since 1920, Nikel is considered the country's ranking abstract expressionist. Her work was cited by the judges for the strength of its colors and its daring compositions, and for its continuing influence on Israeli painting. "Leah Nikel is forever a young artist," the committee said.

Sculptor Menashe Kadishman was cited for his "breakthrough" approach to minimalist and environmental sculpture, which draws from biblical, Jewish, and Israeli sources. Among his works are the blue metal trees at the

end of Rehov Rambam in Jerusalem. His works, including many paintings, are exhibited all over the world.

Architect and town planner David Reznick was cited for creating a unique style of architecture that blends bold construction and advanced technology as it respects local traditions and maintains outstanding esthetic quality.

The Brazilian-born Reznick designed much of the Hebrew University campus on Jerusalem's Mount Scopus; the monument at Yad Kennedy, the Van Leer Institute, and various other public and residential buildings. As a lecturer at the Technion in Haifa and the Bezalel Academy of the Arts in Jerusalem, he has made important contributions to architectural education here, the judges said.

Woman killed by truck in Bnei Brak

NINAL Litman, 62, of Givat Shmuel, was struck and killed by a truck in Bnei Brak yesterday morning, while crossing at a crosswalk with her mother, Dina Bleiman, 86.

Bleiman, who was also hit, was hospitalized in serious condition in Beilinson Hospital. The driver of the truck was arrested and his license suspended.

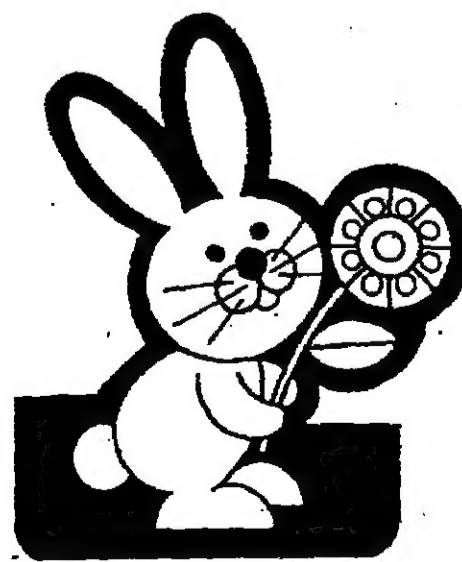
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian exile '100% certain' Arad is alive

An Iranian exile living in Los Angeles told Channel Two News last night that he was "100 percent certain" Ron Arad was alive and being held in Iran.

Meanwhile, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Ori Orr said yesterday that Israel does not know exactly where Ron Arad is, "but we know that Iran has the key - and more than that - to finding and returning him."

Orr said there was nothing to reports in a German newspaper about a new tape and letters indicating Arad was alive, adding such information was irresponsible. "We believe the Germans did this because there are many complaints against them in the West, especially in the US, about their maintaining relations with the Iranians, so to justify this they said they are also helping the Israelis," Orr said.

Two soldiers lightly wounded in Gaza blast

Two soldiers were lightly wounded yesterday in an explosion along the route of a joint Israeli-Palestinian patrol in the Gaza Strip.

The blast occurred when the soldiers stepped out of their jeep near Gadi in the southern Strip, apparently to inspect a suspicious object, Army Radio said.

They were hospitalized in Beersheba, it said.

The army did not comment on the incident. (Itim)

Israel offers medical aid to CIS republics

Over 600 kilos of medical equipment were sent late Wednesday night to the capital of Turkmenistan, whose authorities had asked Health Minister Ephraim Sneh for help.

The shipment was sent on a civilian plane with help from the Foreign Ministry, which said it hopes the gift would strengthen ties with the mainly Moslem republic.

Meanwhile, 21 civilians and soldiers wounded in an Azerbaijan have arrived at Sheba Hospital for treatment and rehabilitation. Five, including a nurse, are paraplegics; others had limbs amputated. Their care and stay will be financed by the Azeri Health Ministry.

Suspected tax cheats freed on bail

Two men suspected of circulating hundreds of thousands of shekels worth of phony tax receipts were each freed on NIS 100,000 bail yesterday by Haifa Magistrate's Court. According to tax investigators, Zohair Abu Nosara, 33, of Reima, in the lower Galilee, and Moussa Abu Alutya, 22, of Jerusalem, created a fictitious company to defraud tax authorities. (Itim)

Saudis send cash for Palestinian Police

Saudi Arabia has put up \$7.5 million to help pay the salaries of the Palestinian Police in Gaza and Jericho, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said yesterday.

The money will be used to help pay the force's wages for February and March, the Vienna-based agency for Palestinian refugees said.

Saudi Arabia previously supplied \$20 million to UNRWA's peace implementation program - the largest contribution by a single donor, the agency said. (Reuter)

Boy killed when gate falls on him

Ziad Abu Assa, 3, from the Beduin village of Tel Sheva, near Beersheba, was killed on Wednesday when an iron gate at the entrance to his home fell on him.

His father, Hassan Abu Assa, told the Beersheba Magistrate's Court yesterday he saw his son playing near the gate when it suddenly collapsed on him. He rushed the boy to Soroka Hospital, where he died of his injuries. (Itim)

Deputy AG elected to UN committee

Deputy Attorney General Yehudit Karp was on Wednesday elected to the 15-member committee overseeing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

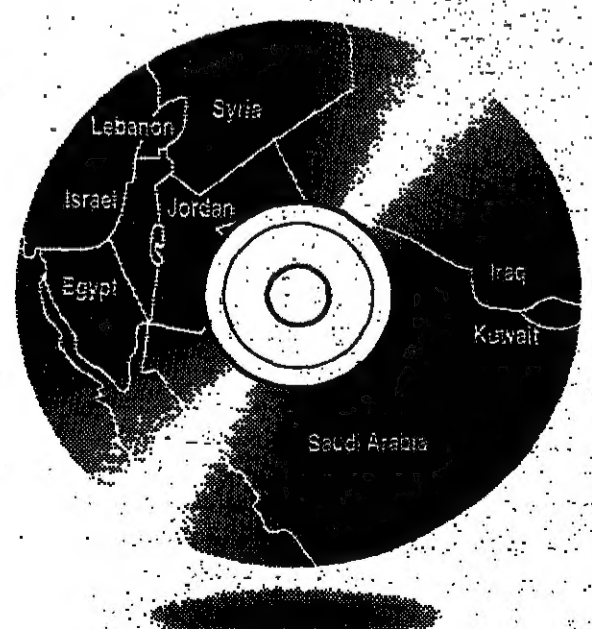
Karp got 77 votes from the 151 countries participating in the vote. Representatives of 27 countries were competing for the five vacant places on the committee.

SITUATIONS VACANT ADVERTISEMENTS

Equal Opportunity in Employment Law, 1998

The law forbids discrimination in the advertising and filling of job vacancies, on grounds of sex, or marital or parental status, except where this is dictated by the nature of the work.
All job advertisements in The Jerusalem Post should be regarded as complying with the provisions of the law. (24-1000)

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